

Type with your other hand
... while Geek Grrrl leads you through
the steamy world of online erotica.

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The Brown axe
falls on lesbian Parking
Commissioner Sharon Bretz.

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Mother tongue
Christina Crawford
remembers mother Joan.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 50 • 11 December 1997

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 26 years

Ballet o' mine

Same-sex and opposite-sex couples participated in the Dance-Along Nutcracker at the Yerba Buena Gardens Sunday, December 7. The annual spectacular is the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Freedom Band's most popular event.

Jane Philomen Cleary



BART cops nab tranny train gang

by Dennis Conkin

Five transvestite Bay Area Rapid Transit passengers traveling on a late night Fremont-Richmond train were arrested and jailed for assault with a deadly weapon on Friday, December 5, for allegedly beating a man after they got into an argument with his girlfriend.

Mario Allen, 20, Darryl Blackman, 20, Brian Coleman, 23, and Lionel Jones, 21, all of Oakland, were arrested by BART police after the train they were riding pulled into Lake Merritt station. Orlando "Adrian" Jones, 21, whose residence has not been identified, was arrested at BART's Oakland West Station shortly after the midnight attack. All were booked for assault with a deadly weapon in the Oakland city jail.

According to BART spokesperson Ron Rodriguez, the alleged assailants began arguing with the unidentified woman and insulting her with questions about her choice of boyfriends.

The incident escalated, and after the male victim intervened in the argument and came to the woman's defense, one of the alleged assailants pulled out a hammer.

The suspects were booked into Oakland's city jail, and the victim, who suffered cuts and lacerations, refused transport to a local hospital after being treated by paramedics at the scene, Rodriguez told the Bay Area Reporter.

The incident is another BART first, Rodriguez said.

"Only in Oakland," Rodriguez said. "To the best of my knowledge, we've never had an attack of this kind before." ▼

It's Dovre and done with

by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco Women's Building finally claimed ownership of the Dovre Club early Tuesday, December 9, after a protracted legal dispute that consisted of — among the flurry of court documents — a mistrial; followed by a settlement agreement; followed by a challenge to that agreement; followed by a Superior Court Judge's ruling for eviction; followed by a bomb threat. Possession was gained just after 6 a.m., when sheriff's deputies used a crowbar to break the lock on the Irish bar, which had been located in one corner of the building for decades.

A rumor had swirled among some 50 people holding a candlelight vigil in front of the Women's Building Monday night that loyal Dovre Club patrons planned to barricade themselves inside when deputies showed up to enforce the eviction order, but in the end only an empty, albeit beer-stained, pub greeted the officers.

The bar was packed Monday night as neighborhood customers from all walks of life came to the bar one last time. Openly gay San Francisco Police Commissioner Edward Petrilillo took off his coat and slid behind the bar to wash glasses, telling reporters the bar's old equipment reminded him of his bartending days in New York. A lot of Van Morrison songs were played over the hum of a football game, and a lot of toasts were made in the darkened, smoke-filled room.

"I've lived in the area 19 years, and the Dovre Club is an institution. It's always been so welcoming to the gay community," patron David Spero told the B.A.R. "Gay, straight, old, young; the San Francisco bar was a great melting pot. It's sort of been a living room for so many people."

What will take its place

The quiet, almost anticlimactic end to the fracas that has divided the Mission District means that the Women's Building can get started on a major seismic retrofit and construction project that will include a licensed child care center and expanded resource areas. When completed, the building will also be accessible to people with disabilities. It was because of the Level I seismic risk designation that the Women's Building had to undertake the construction project. The space inside the



Cynthia Laird

The end of the rainbow: the last night of the Dovre Club.

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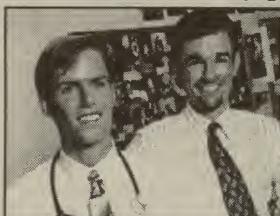
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Stocking stuffers



Rick Gemmarter

Volunteers Jill Schnugg and Maureen Prisby fill one of 2,500 gift bags for Project Open Hand clients during a weekend of gift wrapping. Coordinator Lisa Carver (center) helped organize 400 volunteers to wrap some 30,000 items. Bags are filled totally with donations — clothes, toiletries, toys, housewares, etc. — and will be delivered on December 21. The holiday gift program is as old as P.O.H., dating from 1985.

Equal medical benefits elude TG city workers

Health bd. to take matter up next week

by Cynthia Laird

Medical benefits for transgender city employees remain unequal with those offered to all other San Francisco workers; despite what many said was an exhaustive presentation by the Human Rights Commission (HRC) and medical professionals, the Health Services System Board (HSSB) at its November 20 meeting rejected a motion to remove exclusionary language from health plans that pertains to sex reassignment surgery. HRC staff are expected to appear before the board next Thursday, December 18, in a second effort to change city health plans.

It is HRC's contention that the city may be discriminating against its employees by such exclusions. "City and county employees are protected from gender identity discrimination mandated by a vote of the people in November of 1993. The general population of San Francisco is also protected due to ordinances passed by the Board of Supervisors in December of 1994," stated the HRC report prepared for the HSSB.

In California and most other states in the U.S., legal status in the new sex is granted conditionally, when the patient is under medical care, to facilitate a change in documents such as driver's licenses, the HRC report stated. Marriage in the new sex is legal for opposite sex couples, and in all areas other than healthcare coverage, the legal status of transsexuals is now established.

The HSSB oversees the implementation of the city's employee health insurance program. The seven members represent the fire and police department employee unions, and the Service Employee International Union (SEIU). Two other seats are mayoral appointments, the Board of Supervisors' finance committee chair sits on the board, and the city attorney's office has a seat.

The push to remove exclusion-



Jane Philmon Cleland

Shannon Minter

be at next week's meeting, too. "I'm still quite hopeful that they'll do the right thing and take this small step and get rid of these exclusions," said Minter.

He felt frustrated after the last meeting and wonders whether the HSSB board really needs more information. "Their concerns seemed disingenuous, and I don't think it's a lack of education that's holding up the decision," Minter told the B.A.R. "I think it's a lack of respect for the transgender community that is holding up the decision."

Leal observed that "everybody seemed uptight" at the meeting.

While questions were raised about the costs involved in changing health plan language, HSSB members were told there are very few identified transgender city workers. HRC staff member Larry Brinkin said they know of only 13 transgender employees out of a workforce of 27,000. Not all of them may choose to have sex reassignment surgery should the benefits be made available, and some may have already had part or all desired surgery performed, thus reducing the potential cost. The HRC report provided a detailed breakdown of costs for male-to-female (MTF) and female-to-male (FTM) medical needs.

Surgery costs are in the range of \$7,500 to \$36,000 for MTF individuals, and \$4,000 to \$75,000 for FTM individuals, depending on the procedures needed and surgery techniques used; hormone therapy averages less than \$250 per year for either sex, the HRC report stated. The HRC report pointed out that similar coverage is "routinely provided in non-transsexual context," such as in breast cancer treatments, urinary tract conditions, and hysterectomies. ▼

A lack of respect

Shannon Minter, who last year came out as transgendered, is a staff attorney with the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR). He attended the HSSB meeting last month and said he'll

Next Thursday's HSSB meeting is open to the public and starts at 2:30 p.m. at 1155 Market Street, 4th floor, between Seventh and Eighth streets.

Smashing success



The Shanti Kids Holiday Party on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Shanti offices on Market Street was a fun, festive occasion. Over 100 people attended the event, which featured piñatas, a movie, pizza, sodas, a Christmas tree, a clown, and various arts & crafts.

Time for 'fag patrol' at Stonestown?

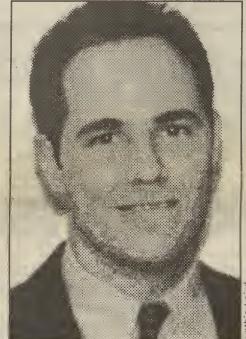
Gay man accuses mall manager of anti-gay slur

by Cynthia Laird

Community United Against Violence is investigating a San Francisco man's complaint that he overheard the general manager at Stonestown Galleria Shopping Center making an anti-gay comment Friday, November 28 – and was then pushed out of the mall's administrative offices after confronting the man about the slur. Jason Hinson, who is openly gay and involved locally with the "Fight AIDS" vanity license plate proposal, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he was in a mall restroom when he heard the man comment to his colleague, "It's time for fag patrol," as they walked out of the bathroom.

Hinson said he immediately went to an administrative office to speak to the manager and lodge a complaint. When the manager appeared a short while later, Hinson said he recognized him as the man who made the comment to his co-worker as the two left the restroom.

"I said, 'I'm here to complain about something you did,'" Hinson recounted, adding the man, who identified himself as Mall Operations Manager Reed Bennett, said Hinson was mistaken and denied making the remark. "I said, 'I really feel you owe me an apology.' He literally put his hand



Jason Hinson

on my shoulder and pushed me out the office and shut the door," said Hinson.

The mall employee allegedly with Bennett in the restroom was Darren Keetch, a security management official, Hinson said.

Reached at his office Wednesday, December 10, Bennett angrily denied the incident. "I remember him coming to the office, and I told him at the time he was mistaken in what he heard," Bennett told the B.A.R. "Anything you connect my name to - you'd better substantiate, or you're going to have a problem with that."

Asked whether he pushed Hinson out of the office, Bennett said, "I did not, and I have nothing else to say to you."

Hinson said he informed Supervisor Gavin Newsom about the incident. Newsom's office subsequently contacted Community United Against Violence (CUAV), and Hinson is also planning to write a letter to mall management and inform the Human Rights Commission (HRC) of his experience.

"If he'd said something like, 'I'm sorry,' or 'I don't normally talk like that,' I'd let it go. But the guy was so cold about it. He totally knew what he said," Hinson said. "If we don't stand up to it [anti-gay incidents], it continues."

Jennifer Rakowski, CUAV's hate-violence project coordinator, told the B.A.R. the organization is taking Hinson's complaint seriously and would like, at a minimum, to see Stonestown Galleria employees complete sensitivity training courses. "Part of our interest is that it's management and [other] people visibly in positions of power. It highlights just how much institutions can create a culture of violence," said Rakowski.

CUAV plans to contact Reed, Rakowski said. "We're hoping to work with Supervisor Newsom's office, HRC, and others to coordinate a response. We'd love to see sensitivity training take place," she added.

'Country Christmas' collects toys and funds for pediatric AIDS relief

by Shan Schwartz

Everyone is invited to participate in "A Country Christmas" next week to raise money and collect new toys for children with AIDS.

The sixth annual event, hosted by Club Townsend, benefits the UCSF Pediatric AIDS/HIV Treatment Center. It will take place from 8 to 9:30 p.m. next Saturday, December 20, at 177 Townsend Street (at Third). This year's party theme is an old-fashioned Christ-

mas of the 1950s.

Admission is \$25, and partygoers are also encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy for donation. A new toy can be exchanged for a free drink at Club Universe.

The cocktail party will have an open bar and food from Harvey's restaurant on Castro Street. Live entertainment will include such performers as Dana Adkins from *Beach Blanket Babylon* and a musical number by Imperial Court Empress Donna Sachet.

And the entertainment might not end on stage: Celebrity bar-

tenders will include Donna Sachet, B.A.R. columnist Mr. Marcus, event promoter Jito Garcia, and club promoter Gus Bean.

The \$25 admission also buys your entrance to Club Universe that night after the party.

Sponsors for the event include Macy's, Virgin Megastore, Citra, Miller Beer, Golden Brands, and Harvey's. ▼

For more information on A Country Christmas, call (415) 985-5241.

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ABC hires Bukowski as associate director

by Cynthia Laird

Ken Bukowski, former executive director of the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC), has joined the staff of AIDS Benefits Counselors (ABC) as the agency's new associate director. In the newly-created position, Bukowski's responsibilities will include fund development for grants and special events, publicity, and administrative management.

"We are thrilled to welcome Ken to our staff," said Paul Causey, executive director. "He brings a wealth of experience, both in helping guide community-based organizations through periods of growth, and in raising the funds necessary to meet increased demand for services."

Filling the associate director position represents an important step in ABC's plan to better meet the increased demand for services that help people living with HIV/AIDS secure financial resources. As clients live longer with recent medical advances, their need for financial and employ-

ment services has increased dramatically and is expected to continue to grow. Causey said that with generous financial support from the Levi Strauss Foundation and the Mayor's Office of Community Development, ABC has embarked on an organizational development plan that ensures the organization will continue providing a broad continuum of services that is responsive to the needs of the community.

"I am excited to join ABC because of the vital services they provide people living with HIV/AIDS," Bukowski said. "I am particularly proud of ABC's ability to listen to the client and satisfy their needs."

While at LYRIC, Bukowski was responsible for incorporating the organization as an independent nonprofit agency, doubling the program budget, and building a strong infrastructure that supported new programming. Under his leadership, LYRIC grew to become one of the premiere lesbian and gay youth organizations in the country.

At ABC, Bukowski's hiring is just part of the agency's plan to

better integrate existing programs so that it is easier for clients to access all of its services. The board of directors has also initiated a planning process focused on developing a three-year strategic plan to guide the agency's future growth.

"Input from clients, volunteers, staff, and the community is being utilized as we take each step in the planning process," said Bob Emerson, board president. "The board is committed to generating strategies that keep ABC at the forefront of meeting client needs and prepared for continued changes in the epidemic."

Each year, ABC assists over 2,500 people living with HIV/AIDS in obtaining and utilizing the public and private benefits to which they are entitled. Additionally, ABC's Positive Resource program provides work referrals, employment counseling, and computer skills training for people living with HIV/AIDS so they may be better able to gain or maintain financial independence. ▼

For information about ABC's services, call (415) 558-9845.

Recreating Our Future campaign

NTFAP victory celebration set for next Thursday

by Cynthia Laird

The National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (NTFAP) is hosting its 1997 Recreating Our Future (ROF) victory celebration reception next Thursday, December 18, in San Francisco. The ROF campaign, launched locally last January, is NTFAP's ambitious initiative to bring the resources to bear to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic among gay men of color by reducing the number of new HIV infections by 50 percent by 2002. Interested community members are welcome to attend; donations will be accepted at the door.

The national campaign was developed in response to the in-

creasing HIV infection rates in people of color communities. ROF is made up of several components, including fundraising, integrating new research into community-based programs, conducting leadership training, research, and social marketing campaigns, and promoting public health policies that ensure gay and bisexual men of color are included as a target population for HIV prevention.

Steven Sams, of Pacific Bell, is the host committee chair for next week's victory reception event. Sams is also a member of the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council.

NTFAP's first ROF reception took place in Miami in September 1996. This year, similar events

took place in San Francisco; Los Angeles; Newark, New Jersey; and Washington, DC. With a lead gift from James C. Hormel, campaign sponsors include the Gill Foundation, the Glen Eagles Foundation, the Public Welfare Foundation, and Glaxo Wellcome.

Last month, NTFAP held a meeting in Washington, DC to build a public policy platform in order to achieve ROF's goals. The unprecedented two-day conference included sessions with 80 of the nation's top AIDS experts, and resulted in the development of an action plan for the campaign. The unique assembly brought together public health officials, community AIDS activists, researchers, foundation representatives, and members of the clergy. The group was lauded by members of Congress, including Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), and Elijah Cummings (D-Maryland), who is co-chair of the House Democratic Caucus's AIDS Task Force.

At various gay pride events throughout the state and elsewhere, NTFAP staff had information booths about the campaign. Many people signed petitions in support of ROF that have since been forwarded to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and Sandy Thurman, director of the Office of National AIDS Policy. ▼

The December 18 victory celebration starts at 6 p.m. in the French Parlour at the Palace Hotel, 2 New Montgomery Street. For more information, call Vince Sales at (415) 356-8109.

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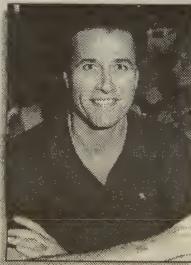
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Cash-strapped AEF appeals to public for funding ideas

by Mark Mardon

Now that more people with HIV and AIDS are living longer, assistance money is growing shorter. That's the frustrating experience of the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF), the venerable San Francisco-based service agency widely recognized for its "Every Penny Counts" jars in shops and bars, which for the first time in its long existence is facing a serious revenue shortfall.

But rather than try to hide the bad news, or attempt to devise solutions behind closed doors, the agency's directors and few paid staff held a town meeting on Monday, December 8 to present the facts of the impending cash crunch to the public and get people's ideas on how keep AEF flush so it can continue supporting a growing list of clients.

As new clients keep getting added to AEF's roster, and continuing clients stay on longer, the total number of people served each year has grown "by leaps and bounds," said AEF Treasurer John Fry, addressing an audience at Metropolitan Community Church. "So our client list is no longer cyclical, it's continuous."

In the five-year period from 1992 to 1996, said Fry, the number of clients served by AEF swelled from about 2,500 to more than 4,000. Expenses grew accordingly, from just over \$1 million to \$1.6 million. Now the AEF is looking at a \$500,000 deficit this year, and increasing deficits for each of the next few years, if new sources of donations aren't found.

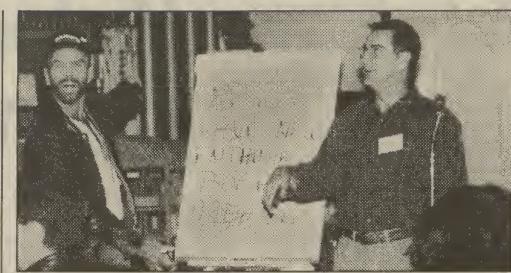
Through the efforts of some 250 volunteers, a working board of 12, and a paid staff of three, the AEF provides emergency funds to low-income people living with AIDS or disabling HIV in ten Northern California counties. The

grants help people pay rent, utilities, and phone bills, purchase essential medical supplies, and cover special needs such as prepaid funeral expenses. Until recently, each client could receive up to \$500 per year in such assistance, but this year the AEF had to cut back on payments, setting a \$400-per-year cap on grants.

"Our current level of fundraising isn't enough to meet the demand for service," said Fry. "We struggle monthly for better ways to serve our clients without compromising our mission, our program, or increasing the cost of our

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Philip Turner (left) and AEF board president Ken Turner.

Rick Gerhardt

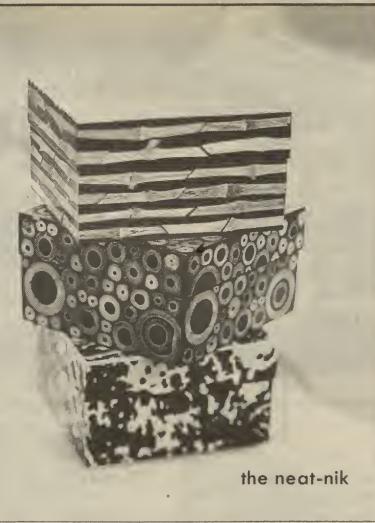
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Mark Allen ThompsonNEWS EDITOR
Mike SalinasARTS EDITOR
Chris CulwellPOLITICAL EDITOR
Wayne FridayASSISTANT EDITORS
Dennis Conkin
Roberto Friedman
Patrick Hoelzel
Cynthia Laird

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

David Bianco • Erin Blackwell • John Bianco
Jaime Cader • Philip Campbell
Jim Chongenour • M.R. Covino
Marianne Dresser • Beth Elliott • Pitthy Galore
Chad Jones • Liz Highteyman • Robert Julian
John F. Karr • Jeffery Kennedy
Matthew Kennedy • I.A. Kisselman
Vicky Kolakowski • Ron Lazar • Simon LeVay
Daniel Mangin • Mr. Marcus • Mark Mardon
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Adrian Roberts • Bob Roehr • Shan Schwartz
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Paul Thomason • Stephanie von Buchau
Helen Vozniak • Dick Walters

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN
Adrian RobertsAD PRODUCTION & LAYOUT
Jorge AlonsoPRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Jeff WagenerPHOTOGRAPHERS
Jane Philomen Cleland
Darlene/PhotoGraphics
Gregory H. Fleischer
Marc Geller
Rick Gerharter
Ron Lazar
Phil Migliarese, Jr.EDITORIAL CARTOONIST
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Michael M. YamashitaADVERTISING MANAGER
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REPRESENTATIVE
Rivendell MarketingLEGAL COUNSEL
Thomas E. Horn, Esq.MEMBER
National Gay Newspaper Guild
United Press International

Bay Area Reporter
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Victorian debate obscures Community Center's goals

by Brenda Barnette

The dream of a vibrant Community Center serving San Francisco's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities has eluded our city since Supervisor Harvey Milk proclaimed it a top priority shortly before his assassination.

Today, San Francisco stands on the verge of fulfilling Harvey Milk's dream. With extraordinary support from Mayor Willie Brown, the Board of Supervisors, city departments, and our community itself, we are finally about to create the kind of Community Center that already exists in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, New York, and hundreds of cities large and small across the United States.

In light of today's disagreement about the fate of a 103-year-old structure on the site of our future Community Center, it is important to keep sight of our mission: to plan, build, and open a safe, affordable and accessible facility that will foster the pride, health, identity, and sense of purpose of our diverse community.

Our Community Center will be a resource to revitalize and rebuild our community in the face of homophobia, racism, transphobia, and our devastating losses from HIV/AIDS. It will provide a place where everyone feels welcome, regardless of gender, race, income, HIV status, age, or any other status. It will provide a link to individuals with community-based services and programs, while making space for existing and new community organizations.

New York's Gay Community Center offers an exciting model for San Francisco. On a recent evening there, 39 different groups and organizations were meeting during a five-hour period! They included a youth group, an acting class, bisexual adult children of alcoholics, Dyke Marshall Training, married lesbians, Sexual Compulsives Anonymous, and a drop-in group for HIV-

positive men. Imagine the possibilities!

As the Community Center's Board of Directors planned our facility, we convened 15 different community focus groups to find out what folks wanted, needed, and expected in their new center. We determined a need for about 85,000 square-feet — more than twice the original size of New York's Community Center — to accommodate everyone's wishes!

We then proceeded to scale back the building's size, trying to get the most we could within our original budget. We reduced the space first from 85,000 square-feet to about 65,000, then to 41,000.

With \$1.1 million from the city, we purchased property on Market Street at Octavia. The site included a run-down Victorian whose top floors had been boarded up for years — the victim of neglect, vandals, and weather.

Our intention was to renovate the Victorian and construct a new building next to it. After consultation with several contractors and others, we budgeted \$650,000 to



rehab the Victorian.

We then conducted a design competition, requiring competitors to include the Victorian in order to have their design considered by the Community Center Project.

After the architects were chosen in April, they conducted a feasibility study to determine more precisely the costs of rehabilitating the Victorian. Structural engineers, soil scientists, preservationists, and others refined the numbers. We were surprised to learn that the actual cost of renovation to stringent commercial codes would be \$650,000, but closer to \$2.6 million!

Even at this higher cost, the Victorian would be less safe than a new building. It would require us to build a smaller Community Center and would also present long-term maintenance difficulties.

After intensive deliberation in which we considered all our options, the board voted to construct a new facility on this site rather than renovate the old one.

Our decision was not an easy one. However, we are committed to building a safe, affordable, accessible building. The Victorian presents serious challenges to all three of those goals.

During the time we planned to rehab the Victorian, not one of the newfound "Friends of 1800 Market" who now criticize our decision made a serious financial contribution to our efforts to keep the Victorian.

Now they are threatening this project with lawsuits, ballot measures, intimidation of donors, name-calling, and other non-constructive methods.

They say they support the Center, but want us to keep the Victorian. It is time for them to stop their narrow-minded intimidation and to be part of a realistic solution. ▼

Brenda Barnette chairs the Community Center Project's board of directors.

Preservationists want to build a center, not bury it

by Gary R. Goad

Friends of 1800 Market Street" is a grassroots organization born out of the sudden decision by the Community Center Project (CCP) Board to demolish the Fallon Building, a 104-year-old Victorian that embodies so much San Francisco history, including the history of our own community. We absolutely support the new Community Center Project — we simply want to see that the CCP Board lives up to its original promise to restore this building and incorporate it into the new center.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the California Historic Preservation Office, and all of the local architectural historical groups regard this as an important structure. The combined commercial-residential building is of a unique trapezoidal shape, perfectly fitted to its site. The rooms upstairs fan out from a central stairway which is crowned by a beautiful stained glass dome. Restoration architects as well as some who participated in the CCP design contest agree the Victorian is quite sound and remarkably intact, needing only ordinary cosmetic and seismic work to make it a safe, workable, and aesthetically pleasing public space.

Recognized experts estimate costs to achieve the goal of restoration and incorporation will not exceed \$175 per square foot, comparable to the cost of new construction. In contrast, the CCP Board, who has not consulted any restoration architects, estimates \$400 per square foot. We believe

inflated figures are being used to fool the community into supporting demolition.

Why not buy the building for \$1 and move it? This is a red herring, and the CCP board knows it. Their own minutes for the meeting at which they decided to sacrifice the building call this ploy a "diversionary tactic." Among the reasons why it can't be done is the physical impossibility of moving something this size and shape. But equally importantly, this building marks the western edge of the fire from the 1906 earthquake. Every building on Market Street east of Octavia was severely damaged or destroyed. Its greatest historic importance is its site, an assessment with which the California Historic Preservation Office agrees.

The CCP states keeping the Victorian will reduce needed space by 25%. So they threaten to eliminate the childcare area, the auditorium, and office space for nonprofits. Ask yourself, "Why would they eliminate these vital services, rather than the huge, useless atrium, with its 'flame' symbol, which many members of the community find offensive?"

Using just the vacant part of the lot achieves the full 41,000 square feet desired by the CCP. Neighborhood associations in the vicinity have stated that they would prefer a taller building to demolition of the Victorian, if that choice had to be made. The SF Planning Department recommended to the CCP Board this alternative, and of

fered to assist in the sale of 1800 Market to restoration-minded buyers. But the board has rejected this idea.

We realize that fundraising is paramount to the success of the Center. While fundraising is clearly a function of the CCP board, we have already investigated resources available through Federal and State restoration dollars, pro-restoration organizations, and our own supporters. However, for our efforts to be successful, the CCP board must rescind its vote for demolition immediately, opening those doors and wallets for the Center.

While options exist, the CCP board has been unwilling to listen. They have worked hard, and we applaud their effort. However, we feel it's a mistake to ignore the concerns of the

community they purport to represent. "Community" means everyone, including those who disagree with them. Fortunately, it also includes a large number of architects, designers, contractors, carpenters, etc. who stand ready to volunteer their services. The bottom line remains: you can't build a community with a wrecking ball.

We are hopeful that this publication will open a new era of cooperation. More importantly, a community reunited, bringing us all together to build the best Community Center in the nation. ▼

Counterpoint

Gary R. Goad is vice chair of Friends of 1800 Market Street.

LETTERS

Self-serving bureaucracy

The SFAF board often whines to us that "Pat Christen is not the enemy." Well, OK, I agree that Pat Christen the private citizen living in Oakland is not the enemy, but Pat Christen, Executive Director of SFAF, and the self-serving bureaucracy she leads may very well constitute one of the worst enemies we have faced since the epidemic began.

In my view, the gross improprieties that have been the subject of public outrage at SFAF – insanely high salaries, unreasonable office expenses, improper lobbying activities, and a questionable level of actual services rendered – are setting the stage for the Foundation's long-overdue downsizing, and SFAF's lame, self-serving response to this outrage only makes the problem clearer. As a San Francisco taxpayer and resident – and I stress "resident" – I have every right to demand a much higher level of accountability from SFAF and a great deal more control over the way SFAF spends city funds. In addition, it seems obvious that SFAF's meetings are not truly open as they claim, and that many decisions that should involve extensive community input are in fact made behind closed doors by unqualified, uncaring, uninfected people and their lackeys.

The combined salaries of SFAF's top 14 employees totaled more than \$900,000 in 1995, and I'm sure they all have received raises since then. Is this really the best use of all of this money? Certainly people deserve fair compensation for services rendered, but who felt that these salaries were fair? We have heard the knee-jerk response to this question many times, that the salaries are "in line" with similar positions at other large nonprofits. Sounds like "you scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours."

Are we to believe that a monstrously high salary is the main reason someone would work for SFAF? Come now. I think most of us want people working at our ASOs to be paid a fair wage, but I think most of us also find SFAF's idea of a fair wage quite ridiculous.

SFAF has dug in its heels and seems adamant in its intention to prevent genuine public participation. This should infuriate all of us and is the best argument for removal of city funding, if not a forced takeover.

Ken Harrison
San Francisco

Groundswell of outrage

Recently, your paper ran two full-page ads from SFAF. It should be pointed out such extravagance on the part of SFAF is in keeping with the wasteful levels of expenditures which have mushroomed over the years from this agency. Twenty-five hundred dollars later, we are still not sure if any of this means Pat intends to take a pay cut. SFAF, get a clue! Your "vocal minority" involves thousands of disenfranchised individuals who are fed up with being sent to rat-hole hotels and another line at the welfare office, while your executives continue to cash in at the expense of PWAs! To dismiss their critics as merely "a handful of vocal individuals" is to ignore the hundreds of people who attended the MCC meeting the night of Oct. 28th to voice their outrage at Pat Christen's exploitative, manipulative directorship of SFAF. Everyone agrees Michael Bellefontaine, Michael Petrelis and Ronnie Burk all have big mouths, but for the Board of Directors of SFAF to frame the groundswell of outrage and concern as "a vocal minority" is an indication of just how out-of-touch SFAF truly is.

Ronnie Burk
San Francisco

Privileged information

This is in response to the front-page article "Supervisors want Sunshine on city-funded AIDS groups" of B.A.R., Nov. 27. What precedent exists for Ammiano's proposal to impose public-access regulations on SFAF? Though the foundation receives "city funds," does the city not give a financially self-benefiting donation to an independent organization rather than budget funding for a city-operated program?

Obviously, a non-profit organization is held accountable by those who fund it. Does SFAF have a contractual obligation to the city to disclose all proceedings and documentation? If the "supervisor" proposal does not pass, is the city considering withholding financial support until SFAF has completely satisfied their curiosity?

What specific procedures and documentation does SFAF keep as privileged information? How have the disgruntled city and activists approached the foundation with their dissatisfaction in timely, thorough communication?

Tony M. Knox
San Francisco

[Editor's note: For the answers to those and other questions, stay tuned. The story is still unfolding.]

A real turkey of a dinner ... and yet, not

These days, we HIVers are faced with a real Catch-22. If we speak up about certain ways we feel we are treated, we risk being labeled "ingrates," and also risk being used by any of the one or more "anti-whatever" groups that roam our society. And if we say nothing, we experience increasing "corporate mentality" alter the services that were provided for us, dwindle from lack of compassion and respect.

We understand the declining dollars and volunteers, and are willing to make the necessary adjustments. However, being served "processed pressed turkey roll" on Thanksgiving by an organization that claims to be there for us is beyond insulting. Throughout the city, the news media was hyped about all the turkeys being donated to various organizations so that many people could enjoy a day of Thanksgiving, except at the Westin St. Francis Thanksgiving Dinner sponsored by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Our holiday joy was soon dashed when we found out that there was no turkey dinner for us, but instead luncheon turkey meat.

I believe I can speak for many of my HIV+ brothers and sisters that we are very appreciative for all the compassion and support we have received, and continue to receive over these many years. This support has enabled us to have hope for the future and provided us with some semblance of pride and dignity, as well as a decent standard of living many of us enjoy.

Now we need that extra boost to help us get through these challenging and hopeful times new drugs might provide. Unfortunately, at the same time, we are faced with declining respect for us as people by many of the people who are in positions of authority. AIDS opportunists abound throughout so many organizations, not only those who are to provide client services, but also executive directors of said organizations. I say to these AIDS opportunists: you do not have to possess compassion for us, but at least show some respect. In our society, Thanksgiving is about giving thanks around a nice turkey dinner, not "processed pressed turkey roll."

George White Eagle
San Francisco

A Petrelis package of joy

Michael Petrelis is a saint and a sinner all wrapped up in one beautiful package of Christmas joy! San Francisco would be dull without wonderful people like Mike. How lucky we all are to have his voice among the many in this city. For the many years I have known Mike, he has always been on the very edge of the political pinnacle, whatever that means – he has been in Washington, DC putting pink triangles on the grave of the unknown soldier, and he has been in Japan, making sure that some justice in the case of Alan Schindler came to pass. Always a believer in our community strength. We are very fortunate to have a vocal and non-violent activist in our midst.

So stop complaining – AIDS is still the issue, and we are all obligated to keep our dreams alive while fighting against a society turned against us. To fight each other is futile, to say the least. We love you, Mike.

Jeff Bullard
San Francisco

Dilley's concern

[The following letter was sent to Dr. Jim Dilley, executive director, UCSF AIDS Health Project.]

I applaud you on being concerned with the rights of people who use the services of the AIDS Health Project. We should all be concerned with not violating the rights of others.

Hopefully, your concern extends to the right of Michael Petrelis not to have services restricted without a hearing or right to appeal. Perhaps you can tell me if Mr. Petrelis will be allowed to appeal. If not, why not.

Wilma Cupp
Advocate, Patients' Rights Advocacy Services
San Francisco

Ovarian variance

At the end of her column two weeks ago, Beth Elliott said she is reproduction-impaired. Is that because she had sex change surgery?

Mary Kelly
San Francisco

[Um, yeah. So?]

Geek freak

[The following was sent to "Geek Grrrl" columnist Heather Shirkey.]

Just wanted to drop you a quick "thank you" for the effort you put into your column in B.A.R. I really enjoy it. Keep up the good work!

John Ozella
San Francisco

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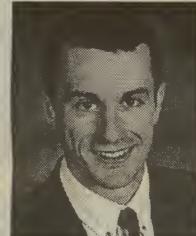
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Oprah, how could you?*[The following letter was sent to Oprah Winfrey:]*

As a long-time fan of your show, I must now inform you that I will not watch ever again. As a gay American, I was outraged and hurt by comments made by you and the newly discovered black actor on yesterday's show featuring Steven Spielberg. The actor was telling a story involving him, prior to his being discovered for the movie *Amistad*, in which an "effeminate man" approached him for a photography session. His homophobic comments, implying that he would assault the apparent gay man if the gay man had approached him inappropriately, were further augmented by your insensitive and cruel remark that the black man might "annihilate" the gay man for possibly propositioning him!

You, and the other guest members as well as the audience, laughed at your inflaming comment, and I was shocked to see a Jew and two blacks engaging in such discriminating behavior. You and Steven Spielberg know well the meaning of prejudice, yet you chose to encourage violence against an unknown gay man, simply because he may have been attracted to the black actor. That black actor, no matter how talented he might be, will never make it big in the movie industry unless he rids himself of his prejudices, but you, Ms. Winfrey, should know better. Why don't you go a step further and encourage the "annihilation" of straight men who proposition lesbians, or straight women who make passes at gay men? It happens all the time... where is the outrage there?

Even if your comment were made in jest, it was not funny to gay people, who still suffer not only discrimination, but assault and murder, just because of their sexual orientation, which they didn't choose, any more than you chose your sexuality. Gay people are America's last scapegoats.

I cannot tell you how disappointed and shocked I am at your careless comments, but the fact that so many others laughed at them only proves just how widespread homophobia is in this country, and you've helped that homophobia. I feel sorry for you and your complete lack of awareness of your own bigotry. Just because you played a character on *Ellen* doesn't mean you're accepting of gay people... that's quite obvious.

Dean Tomich
Redwood Estates, CA

Transparent gay men

I have the B.A.R. mailed to me, and I just read the November 20th issue regarding the death of Mr. Falaschi after having liposuction. I grieve for his family and friends.

But the underlying issue here is how transparent most gay men are. How they must be like everyone else, like clones of each other, paper thin, wear the same clothes, shop at the same store, same barber, same haircut, same everything. Eat at the same place, share the same weight, etc. When will the gay population at large realize that we are all individuals? Not all of us are 30- or 32-inch waists with a great chest and great endowments below.

It's time for this community to realize the individual composition of people, that a person who you think might not be your type might still have a great personality, emotions, attitude, devotion, zest for life and play, etc. But you immediately put him on your "Not" list because of some silly thing such as a facial scar, or balding/graying, or perhaps he's a size 36-waist (oh, my god!).

We should all look into ourselves to see what our lives are about. If it's about what you wear and where you eat and who did this and who did that, I suggest we all need to look deeper, because somewhere in that self is a person who should care about others, and not about the trivialities of everyday life.

Jay R. Farone
Middletown, New Jersey

Smoke in your face

The time has come for bar-owners to wake up, and finally ban smoking in the bars. As a non-smoker, I have a right to breathe fresh air, and other people's smoke violates that right. For years, smokers have had it their way. Times have changed, and now it is time for us non-smokers to enjoy a drink without unwanted smoke. Bar-owners will not lose business, because there are more non-smokers in the bars than smokers. There are a lot of us with damaged immune systems who go to the bar for a social outlet. A social drink for me eases stress, and helps me relax a little bit.

What makes me angry is that there are a lot of rude and disrespectful smokers. They deliberately blow smoke in your face. The restaurants are smoke-free (thank god!), and the time has come for bars to do the same. It is a filthy, stinking habit that I have to put up with. Enough is enough! Let them go outside and smoke, and stop polluting the air I enjoy, too.

Scott Sproat
Walnut Creek

Warlord Powell

The Warlord Colin Powell was about to receive a commendation from one of our more backward Supervisors, Gavin Newsom, allegedly for raising money for poor young people, when Supervisor Tom Ammiano raised the issue of Powell's stated opposition to gays in the military, thus ending a resolution that should never have been written. Not to be outdone by a backward supervisor, our pro-war, one-term mayor, Willie Brown, who just invited the Navy's Blue Death to return despite the objections of San Francisco residents, took it upon himself to commend the Warlord for his aid to children. One may wonder how long this Warlord's record on favoring children and other human beings is, when his entire career is based on killing human beings.

From turning a blind eye to war crimes on the part of the US military in Vietnam, to praising the Islamic fundamentalist allies of the US in Afghanistan, to covering up for Defense Secretary Weinberger in the Iran-Contra Affair, to defending the US-supported dictator in the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos, to playing a key role in the massacre of thousands of Panamanian people in 1989 and of hundreds of thousands of people, especially children, in the Persian Gulf Massacre of 1991, Colin Powell has earned his title of Warlord. He is also anti-labor, with his support of NAFTA, the World Bank and the IMF.

No, Willie Brown and Gavin Newsom, Colin Powell is not an American hero; he is an American fascist.

Lee Heller
San Francisco

Compromise Powell resolution

In the spirit of municipal political peace, I propose this compromise solution for the Board of Supervisors regarding the proposed Colin Powell thank-you:

"The San Francisco Board of Supervisors thanks Gen. Colin Powell for spearheading the volunteer efforts of the President's Summit for America's Future.

"At the same time, the Board is concerned that a person who exhibits such bigotry and cowardice has been chosen for this position.

"Bigotry, because Gen. Powell was key in derailing the president's plan to issue an executive order that would allow gays and lesbians in the U.S. military to be open about their sexual orientation. Surely Gen. Powell is aware that, had not President Truman courageously issued an executive order allowing black people to serve alongside whites in the U.S. armed services, he himself would have been unable to rise to chair the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He certainly is also aware that every single argument put forth against gays in the military was used by racial bigots at the time of Truman's order (loss of unit cohesion, lowering of morale, etc.). And yet we know that the integration of blacks into the service only made our armed forces stronger and our nation more unified. It was also a major step forward for black civil rights.

"Cowardice, because when history presented him with an opportunity to strike a similar blow for the civil rights of gays and lesbians, Gen. Powell took the easy, self-serving way out, kowtowing to the powerful bigots in Congress and the military at the expense of justice.

"As a chief architect of the disastrous 'don't ask, don't tell' policy, Powell also institutionalized lying in the American armed services. No one, including Powell, denies that gays and lesbians have served and do serve our country, often with great distinction. Yet they may do so only by being dishonest. Powell's message to homosexual service personnel - 'Lie, and we'll let you serve your country' - is morally reprehensible.

"Ironically, every study undertaken by the Pentagon itself since 1957 has concluded that gays and lesbians could serve openly without adverse effect on our military, just as they do in many other countries. This causes the Board to be doubly perplexed by Powell's stance.

"While appreciative of Gen. Powell's efforts on behalf of volunteerism, the Board of Supervisors nevertheless deplores the fact that such a person is held up as a role model for Americans."

The supes can insert the "whereas"es, and it'll be ready to go.

John Gildersleeve
San Francisco

Viddy British

As a British citizen, I would like to inform other readers who may be British that we are entitled to vote in UK elections. However, we must register for more information. Contact the British Consulate, 1 Sansome Street, Suite 850, SF CA 94104.

"If you don't have a vote, you don't have a voice."

Gary Roberts
San Francisco

Send signed, original, legible, and honest letters to 395 Ninth Street, SF CA 94103. Please include your phone number (which we won't print). We don't withhold names, except in rare cases when personal safety would be obviously endangered.

A tale of two women

by Wayne Friday

As 1997 nears its end, 1998 looms large in the political careers of Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. The two, you may remember, made history in 1992 when they were both elected to the U.S. Senate from California, and their futures currently look pretty damn good. Next year could indeed be the "Year of the Woman" redux – at least in the Golden State.

Recent numbers from the respected Mervin Field Poll show Feinstein, an unannounced gubernatorial candidate, still leading all possible opponents, Republicans and Democrats alike, in next June's "open primary" election. Feinstein, according to Field, continues to dominate the field and is the only Democrat who can beat Attorney General Dan Lungren, the probable GOP nominee.

Previous Field Polls also showed Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis, another Democratic candidate, with a slight lead over Lungren. However, a lot of Davis' backers have apparently gone over to Feinstein. Much of Feinstein's support in an open primary comes from women in both parties. Buoyed by these women, Feinstein is the top vote-getter in the open primary, drawing 24 percent of the vote, including 36 percent of the Democrats and 12 percent of the GOP vote.

Lungren, by contrast, pulls 21 percent of the total vote in the primary, including 42 percent of the Republicans and only 6 percent among Democrats. In short, the Field Poll clearly shows Feinstein winning in part because she pulls twice as many votes from the opposite party as does Lungren, again thanks to her popularity among women voters.

The most recent Field Poll has some Democratic strategists openly suggesting that Mr. Davis will possibly either run for reelection as lieutenant governor or switch to the race for state attorney general when, as expected, Feinstein formally enters the gubernatorial race after the first of the year. These same Democrats expect that Davis would then endorse Feinstein over free-spending megamillionaire Al Checchi.

There was good news from the recent Field Poll for Senator Barbara Boxer as well. The poll shows Boxer leading all of her likely opponents in an open primary with 35 percent of the vote (of all parties), with her closest rival being GOP state Treasurer Matt Fong with 14 percent. Fong is followed among Republicans by San Diego millionaire businessman Darrell Issa at a disappointing (considering the millions he's already spent on television time) six percent, with San Diego Mayor Susan Golding bringing up the rear at five percent.

According to the Field Poll, Boxer, once thought to be an easy target by the GOP, would beat Republican Fong in the '98 November general election by a healthy 11-point margin, 45 to 34 percent. Most politicos, Republicans as well as Democrats, feel that with Senator Feinstein at the head of the Democratic ticket as the nominee for governor next year, Boxer's re-election chances will



David Catania, openly gay member of the Washington, DC City Council.

improve even more.

You can bet that the Democratic Party, state and national, has, after looking at this most recent poll, started stepping up the pressure on former San Francisco Mayor Feinstein to announce for governor as soon as possible. Those closest to the senator told the Bay Area Reporter this week that she could make an announcement "within the first two weeks of January."

Politics and people

I know the law is the law, but add my name to the long list sorry to see the Dovre Club depart as of this Tuesday, December 9, at 6 a.m. It was a great joint with a memorable clientele. I'm very disappointed that something couldn't have been worked out to keep this popular political hangout open.

Senator Dianne Feinstein will be the chairperson of a dinner tribute honoring outgoing City Treasurer Mary Callanan (mark your calendars in red for this one!) Saturday, January 17, at the Fairmont. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.; dinner at 7:30 p.m. Call 777-2340 for more information.

When openly gay attorney David Catania won a City Council seat in the District of Columbia last week, it was such an upset (the Democrats outscored the GOP in the District 10 to 1) that the young Republican councilman-elect immediately became a must-get dinner speaker for the GOP, especially among gays and lesbians.

And there was likely GOP gubernatorial nominee Dan Lungren holding a press confab last week, charging that less than 37 cents of every dollar raised by commercial fundraisers last year actually went to a charitable purpose. It seems that the not-so-altruistic fundraisers took in about \$175 million and returned only \$64 million to charity. So my question is where were the attorney general's legal people – the ones who are supposed to be watching these things? Asleep on the job possibly?

Oh yes, I recently got a note from a friend in NYC wanting me to be sure to mention that not only did a Puerto Rican lesbian (Margarita Lopez) get elected to the NYC City Council, but a gay African-American, Phil Reed, also won a seat. You go, Phil and Margarita!

If you're still unsure whether

state Senator John Vasconcellos' "exploratory" campaign for governor is headed anywhere, just take a gander at the "education package" he announced last week for students grade K through 12. He mentioned the famous three R's (in fact, he somehow came up with six of them), then went on to list among his planks the following: "We must shift the bias of our efforts from teaching and instruction to inspiring the learning instinct of each child." Huh? Say what? That gobbledegook was followed by: "We must prepare parents for much more active knowing nurturing participation in the growth and development and learning of each of their children." I'm sure there's a message in there somewhere, but pardon me if I can't find it. Perhaps someone with a divining rod could help me out.

Incidentally, other would-be gubernatorial candidates like Gray Davis, Dianne Feinstein, and even Dan Lungren have already long since announced their education platforms – in language, I might add, that even college graduates can understand. Vasco, better forget about the governor's race this time around, pal.

From the state of Washington comes word that retired Army Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer has definitely decided to run for Congress against a conservative GOP incumbent in the Second District. Cammermeyer gained fame after winning a legal battle to be reinstated in the Washington state National Guard after the government had fired her because she admitted to being a lesbian. Go, Maggie!

A huge turnout was on hand at D.A. Terence Hallinan's birthday dinner/fundraiser Tuesday night at Gabbiano's.

Those rumors that a prominent (and well-financed) attorney from the lesbian/gay community will challenge Public Defender Jeff Brown next year are making the rounds again.

President William Jefferson Clinton's own Commission on AIDS issued a scathing report last week accusing the Clinton administration of slacking off in its fight against the epidemic. This bit of news comes as no surprise to the many involved in the battle against the still-growing deadly disease.

Anise Parker, a lesbian businesswoman, was elected to the Houston City Council in last Saturday's runoff election, with more than 58 percent of the vote. She becomes the first openly gay elected official in that city, and one of the very few in the Lone Star State. Yee-hah! ▼

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MOST INSURANCE AND CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

An imperfect ten

by Beth Elliott

Moose and Squirrel Must Die! Dept.: Just as soul must always fade before the light of reason (or, at least, thus spake Francis Bacon), it seems beautiful legends are doomed to be debunked by the cold, hard light of fact. Most recently, the romance between Yuri and Lara in *Doctor Zhivago* was given more passion and poignancy by reflecting the real-life romance between Boris Pasternak, the novel's author, and Olga Ivinskaya, the devoted literary assistant who tried to smuggle his royalty payments into the Soviet Union from the West. This was a very risky act of devotion, since the Soviet government considered the Nobel Prize-winning novel a slander against the revolution.

Granted, the legend had already lost some of its luster from all those late-night television "special recording offer" commercials with the syrupy "Lara's Theme" from the movie, played by Zamfir on panpipes, or some such (and not to be confused with Tomb Raider babe Lara Croft from the hit video game). Still, its recent tarnishing was worth at least one heavy sigh: I was in high school when Omar Sharif and Julie Christie portrayed the lovers on the silver screen, and of course thought at the time the movie was incredibly romantic (which didn't explain my fascination with Julie Christie).

Actually, I wasn't the only one in my class at school who had

first learned there was a famous novel titled *Doctor Zhivago* through an old *Mad Magazine* feature meant to lampoon (with astonishing prescience, from the perspective of the '90s) the American penchant for spin-off merchandising. It was a long string of "You've read the book — now watch the movie! You've read the book and watched the movie — now collect the bubble gum cards!" etc., well past the point of absurdity.

But the legend of the real-life romance of Boris and Olga would not be denied ... until last month. Old Soviet secret records coming to light revealed that Ivinskaya had attempted to get out of the gulag

by reminding Nikita Kruschev in a letter that she had cooperated with attempts to silence her lover, trying to sabotage his meetings with foreigners and delay his novel's publication in the West. Pasternak's son says his father never knew of the betrayal; one can only hope.

There's also the context of the times: on both sides of the Cold War, many individuals got leaned on to denounce friends and associates as fellow travelers with the other side's ideology. Granted, it usually takes a totalitarian state to raise this to an art form — Mao's China got people to denounce themselves through "self-confessions" of counterrevolutionary tendencies ... a practice that, sadly, had brief currency among radical lesbian feminists.

Still, last month was a rather unfortunate time to mark the 50th anniversary of the silence of the Hollywood Ten before the infamous House Committee on Un-American Activities. In France, historians published the first thorough accounting of Communism's state-organized exterminations of human beings for social engineering purposes. The body count: 85 million to 100 million — "closer to 100 million, and maybe higher," according to a director of research at a national institute. Among the executed, according to a separate feature story, were many Americans who moved to the so-called workers' paradise out of idealism.

I've always felt an affinity with the Hollywood Ten, a group of movie writers and directors who were jailed and subsequently blacklisted for refusing to tell HUAC whether they had ever been Communist Party members. Their experiences helped disenchanted Americans with the lengths to which our government was going to root out Reds from positions of influence in our society and government. This anti-Communist crusade, while understandable in light of how the Soviet Union had enslaved Eastern

European nations after World War II (and crushed a national liberation struggle in Hungary in 1956, then another in Czechoslovakia in 1968), had the overtones of the totalitarian thought control for which it rightly condemned the Soviet Union (e.g., the suppression of Boris Pasternak's novel and the political imprisonment of his lover and literary assistant).

Surprisingly, HUAC had originally been formed in 1938 to keep an eye on Nazi and Fascist sympathizers and their activities in the U.S., a mission many gays and lesbians today would not only sanction but demand. But it became pretty damned

American itself: it tarred with the same brush those avowedly out to overthrow the U.S. government, and those who had briefly joined the party during the Depression because it did address issues, like racial discrimination, that the major parties would not touch until much later. The Red hunters also equated homosexuality with disloyalty, because of our supposed susceptibility to blackmail.

(Today, the "homophile" activists who risked blacklisting themselves to speak up for our rights are looked down upon by young "queers" as apologetic "assimilationists." That's weak.)

But for every free speech and freedom of association advocate harassed in the '50s, there was another party member who continued to advocate Communism even after Kruschev exposed the atrocities of Stalin's era. And how many of the gay progressives who cite the experiences of the Hollywood Ten as evidence of American evil turned around and denounced or blacklisted others in our own community?

Myself, I'm between two 25th anniversaries of getting denounced and purged from the lesbian community. I know what it's like to have someone who solicited my participation in a project turn around and beg off, saying she was told any association with me would be detrimental to her standing and career in the women's community.

It can happen here. It has happened here. Look around at how various of us denounce each other for failing to hew to a particular stance. The Harvey Milk Democratic Club vs. the Gay Men's Chorus over boycotting United Airlines ... ACT UP factions over belief in particular treatments. It does happen here, all the time.

If you would like to think you would stand up like the Hollywood Ten, stand up now. Stand up for freedom of opinion in our community. ▼

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MEDIA ALERT

Ally McBeal's botched transgender tale

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

The December 1 episode of Fox's critically acclaimed new show *Ally McBeal* botched major transgender storyline, despite undoubtedly earnest intentions. When Ally became the attorney for Stephanie (played by openly gay actor and GLAAD board member Wilson Cruz), a transgender fashion designer who has turned to sex work to pay the bills, the lawyer found herself offering an unorthodox defense for the solicitation rap: an insanity plea based on "transvestite fetishism."

While Ally made it clear that she did not think that Stephanie was crazy, and that it was just a defense tactic, Stephanie expressed great reservations and eventually refused the strategy, noting she left home to escape being called "sick."

Still, Ally called upon psychological "experts" to diagnose Stephanie with "gender dysphoria," and one of them said, "He's [Stephanie] more like a woman, or thinks he's one," and called Stephanie "confused." After Ally made a deal with the judge to postpone ruling for a year while Stephanie worked at Ally's law office, Stephanie found a largely accepting environment, but was still faced with a few insensitive remarks.

But Stephanie went back to prostitution, and was murdered by, as a cop told Ally, "a John [who] went crazy when he found out the Jane was a guy." Ally wondered why Stephanie would go back to the streets if she had a job, but applied Stephanie's last coat of lipstick as a way of trying to honor her in death.

Throughout the episode, confusion prevailed among many characters: What pronouns should be used to address Stephanie? Is transsexuality a mental disorder? Does being comfortable with one's transgender identity make a person "not well"? The only one who was not confused was Stephanie, who had a clear sense of who she was.

If this were the only message, the episode would have been a strong exploration of trans identity. Unfortunately, there were many unresolved assumptions that left a bad taste in the mouth of many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their friends who viewed the program.

Without psychologists to counter the assertion that Stephanie was "confused," the viewer was left with the impression that she may have been mentally ill because of her gender role, even if she saw it otherwise. Also, the show failed to give a larger context to the reason Stephanie returned to the streets after getting the law office job. If one knew nothing about transgender people beyond this show, it would be easy to think that the murder had been caused by Stephanie's hooking, without recognizing the real threats all transgender people – not just sex workers – face in a society that is frequently hostile and violent towards their very existence.

Please let Fox and David E. Kelley Productions know that their exploration of transgender

themes is noteworthy, but that the character got lost in the show's "confusion" about how to address the larger issues of societal transphobia, and reliance on the stereotypical media representation on transgender people as sad, desperate hookers.

Contact: Brett King, Programming Director, Fox Broadcasting Company, P.O. Box 900, Beverly Hills, CA 90213-0900, fax: 310.369.1433, e-mail: askfox@foxinc.com; and David E. Kelley, Executive Producer, *Ally McBeal*, David E. Kelley Productions, 10201 W. Pico Blvd., #80/26, LA, CA 90035, fax: 310.369.3037.

Alex suits Washington Post's Style

The November 23 *Washington Post* Style section featured "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore," an excellent article about Alex Myers, the first openly transgender student at Harvard.

"As a freshman last year, Myers moved [into] a single room on the all-male fourth floor. He told his dormmates the truth: For his first 17 years, he'd been Alice," the story stated.

Alex began identifying as transgender after that, and "Alice legally changed her name. But despite having jettisoned his Alice identity, he hadn't opted for hormone treatments, hadn't even seen a doctor. Perhaps the most arresting part of this story is what happened next ... practically nothing. Mild surprise followed by a collective so-what. There was more bickering about loud music than about a man who got menstrual cramps.

"Outside the rarefied, tolerant air of the academy, others might see something truly odd about this. Can a person ignore chromosomes and private parts and declare him/herself to be other than what biology dictates?" The article profiled a typical day for Alex, from his co-op room to what he eats for lunch (a peanut butter sandwich) and the way he came out as a transperson during his college interview. It talks about his childhood in Maine identifying as a tomboy rather than a boy, and his teen years identifying as a lesbian, and Alex's parents' dis-

comfort with his identity (once, his mother, "stumbling between 'he' and 'she,' frustratedly called Alex 'it'").

The article then discussed Myers's push for Harvard to include "gender identity" as a category in the non-discrimination policy, noting that "ordinances forbidding discrimination against the transgendered have been enacted in municipalities including San Francisco and Evanston, Ill., as well as Cambridge itself."

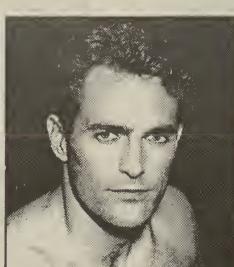
It also closely examined the questions that arise from the implementation of such a policy, as well as some of the resistance he met. It discusses Alex's relationship with his girlfriend, Lexi, both of whom identify as heterosexual. Finally, it says, "He sees no contradiction in the things he is. A future scientist. A jock. A man who menstruates. A sophomore nervously planning to bring his girlfriend home for Thanksgiving to meet his parents."

The article captured Alex's humanity, determination, and strength by alternatively focusing on him as an individual, and it explored some of the wider issues he confronts through his openness and straightforwardness. Considering that much of the media is still grappling with the basic problem of whether or not even to discuss transgender issues, the *Washington Post* and reporter Paula Span broke ground with this article, hopefully setting the tone for transgender media representation in the future.

Congratulate the *Washington Post* for really getting Alex's story, and larger issues of transgender identity right.

Contact: David Von Drehle, Editor, Style Section, *Washington Post*, 1150 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20071, fax: 202.334.5587, e-mail: web-news@washpost.com. ▼

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Romania learns to ACCEPT

by Simon LeVay

Those who refuse to have children are deserters, who seek to escape the laws of national continuity." Thus spoke Nicolae Ceausescu, the Communist dictator of Romania until the revolution of 1989. Gays and lesbians ranked high on the list of these treacherous non-breeders: they were ruthlessly persecuted by the state police, and gay culture was invisible.

I recently had the opportunity to assess what changes may have happened since the revolution, when I participated in a conference about homosexuality at the University of Cluj, in the northern province of Transylvania. The meeting was organized by psychologists Bill Hirst of the New School for Social Research in New York, and Mircea Miclea of Cluj. The event was a public relations success, and a notable first for Romania. Particularly remarkable

was the participation of the fledgling Romanian gay rights organization, ACCEPT.

In spite of the revolution, in which Ceausescu and his wife were executed, liberalization has come slowly to Romania. Grinding poverty, and the generation-long repression of independent thought seem to have left an inertia that invites renewed governmental repression. Not just gay people, but all minorities are still treated badly. Fortunately are those, like the Jews and ethnic Germans, who have had the opportunity to emigrate. The Roma (gypsies) are literally marginalized: on the outskirts of Cluj, one Roma community lives in cardboard shanties and survives by scavenging from the city dump. The mentally ill, and orphaned children suffer a malignant neglect.

According to ACCEPT, 114

men and one woman are currently incarcerated (convicted or awaiting trial) for offenses against "paragraph 200," the Romanian sodomy statute. This statute criminalizes sexual acts that arouse "public scandal," or the promotion of such acts. Thus the ACCEPT activists risked arrest simply for participating in the meeting.

The Council of Europe is putting pressure on Romania to repeal its sodomy statute and to treat gay people better. Unless it does so, Romania will not be able to join the Common Market. (It's sobering to reflect that, if the United States applied to join the Common Market, it would run into the same stumbling block.) On the other hand, conservative forces inside Romania are adamantly opposed to such liberalization. Chief among them are the Romanian Orthodox and Catholic churches. One evening during the meeting, a televised discussion of gay issues was broadcast. The Romanian Orthodox archbishop of Cluj, impressive in flowing beard and black robes, denounced us in thundering tones. We were trying to "normalize the abnormal," he declared. One member of the American contingent, Christian Huygen, countered with a casual but charming pitch for the "gay lifestyle."

That these issues can even be discussed by the Romanian media is of course a mark of progress. A call-in radio show, devoted to the conference, went on for several hours beyond its scheduled time-slot. One caller, a male nurse, described how he had recently witnessed an attempt to "cure" a man of homosexuality by means of electro-shock therapy.

Isolation is still the dominant experience for gay and lesbian Romanians. Not a single gay-positive



The main square in Cluj (Transylvania), Romania, the town where the conference was held.

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book has been published in Romania, and foreign books on the topic are unobtainable. Cluj has no gay-identified bar or cafe, although a corner of the city park serves its time-honored function after dusk. At the conference, only one of the Romanian participants admitted to being gay, and his coming-out was greeted with a collective jaw-dropping.

On one free morning, a history student took me on a guided tour of the city. In the watery fall sunshine, the ancient churches and the baroque-period commercial buildings lent a very European charm to the place, and the hordes of students bustling to and from their classes provided a sense of optimism for the future. It was ironic, though, to see the many archaeological sites at which the remains of the Roman imperial city of Napoca had been exposed to view. For that two-

thousand-year-old culture was far more accepting of sexual diversity than anything that is likely to develop in Cluj today.

As I took the white-knuckle Tarom Airlines flight back to Bucharest, I felt a distinct sense of accomplishment. Not so much for having delivered my usual lecture about the hypothalamus and gay genes, as for having been able to visit this hostile little corner of the world and stand up and say, "I'm gay."

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *The Sexual Brain*, *City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Nonas), and *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996), and the biomedical thriller *Albrick's Gold* (Richard Kasak Books, 1997). He may be reached at SLeVay@aol.com.

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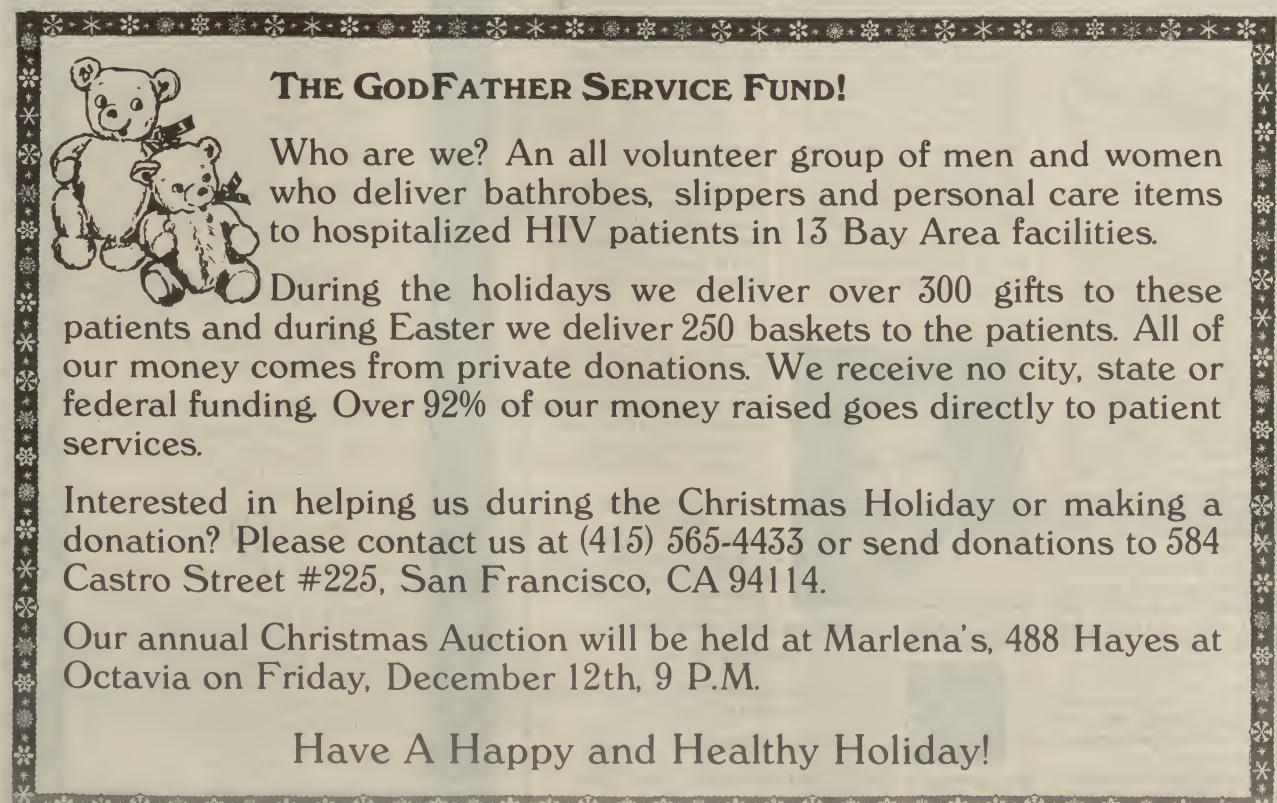
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Have A Happy and Healthy Holiday!



E-rotic fiction

by Heather Shirkey

Imagine you finally have an evening at home alone to relax. Or perhaps it's a quiet, rainy Sunday. Maybe you have the sniffles and decide to skip the grind of the office today. All you want to do is curl up for story time with a collection of shorts, or a work by your favorite author. Better yet, since you're home alone, why not let your mind run wild with some erotic literature? And why bother occupying your hands by trying to flip those heavy, ancient pages? Your computer is a welcome friend, and the stories are just a mouse click away.

If you're looking for mild homoerotic reading material, stop by "Fantasies and True Stories" (<http://www.pacificrim.net/~robert/mild.html>). Their stories range from: "Camp Counselor. A slumber party at the Recreation Center" to "The man behind that cute waiter, a true story." Explore a bit and share a few moments with the characters featured in these mild fantasies. Perhaps you will even be able to relate to the vignettes. The site itself is not overly graphic, and the collection is organized by title for your ease of use. Simple, yet pleasurable.

Maybe you're feeling a bit more romantic than all that. Geek Grrrl found the perfect literary soft spot on the Web, hosted by "Author22 Publishing" (<http://pw2.netcom.com/~author22/small.html>). There are three "books" available on this site, which you can even access in a variety of formats, including a Web-based version and a downloadable one. The first story on the site, "My Teenage Heart," is a touching story of a man's life from boyhood to 70. You can explore the life of the main character, Don, and share his adventures as he

grows and matures sexually. The author invites you to "partake of this adventure as it leads from the 1930s into the 1990s, as it traces the development of a young boy's sexual development through adolescence, young adult, middle age, and old age." The stories are length of short novels, so they are definitely tales that you want to take some time to cozy up to. You may also want to download them and print the chapters, as reading online for that long may dry out your eyeballs.

How about curling up with some "Men on the Net" (<http://www.menonthenet.com/stories/sections/Surprise.html>)? This text-based index page links to a diverse collection of gay erotic fiction. This particular section of the site features stories with surprises, with new stories frequently added. So this one-stop rainy day site could easily become a regular friend. Venture into stories like "Just Another John," "My First Taste," and "Riding the Lawnboy." How can you resist company like this? Don't miss the special photos hidden within some of the stories to help enhance your own imagery. Afterward, be sure to link around the pages to find a treasure chest overflowing with more literary adventures.

By now, you should be pretty laid back and ready for anything. The "Nifty Erotic Stories Archive" (<http://www.triple-x.net/nifty/>) has a little bit of something for everyone, from bestiality to gay male, to lesbian, to transgendered erotic writings. Although the navigation is awkward and multi-tiered, the content is well worth the tour. The Nifty site boasts over 6,600 files for your perusal. This is definitely one to sit back and enjoy.

It only gets better from there. "Blithe House Quarterly" (<http://www.spectra.net/~aalvarez/bhq1.1/bhq1.1.html>), created by Aldo Alvarez, is a site that "showcases a diversity of style, tone, point of view, and subject matter." The tales range in topic from contemporary drama to fun little personal essays. At this point, you may be feeling a little inspired with a few stories of your own. Now is your chance to join in, because "Blithe House Quarterly" also takes submissions. Although the Web site is still hosting the Summer 1997 tales (it's volume 1, Number 1 issue!), Geek Grrrl hopes there will be many, many more updates to come.

If you're looking for something a bit more hands-on, then visit "Jimka's Archive of MM Spanking Stories" (<http://www.rdrop.com/~jimka/spank.html>) or the "M/M CP Stories" site (<http://www.io.com/~casper/cp/fiction/misc/>). Although neither site is the picture of good design, the content matter is definitely beefy. Each site contains a text-based list of titles that give you a hint at the subject matter. So it is easy to pound your way through the adventures.

So go ahead, call in sick tomorrow. Geek Grrrl says you deserve it. It's time you took a quiet moment to catch up on your reading. Indulge yourself, with erotic extravagance. ▼

Link to the sites mentioned in today's article from Geek Grrrl's Web page at <http://www.sirius.com/~hezaa/bar>.



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Mayor's AIDS Summit update: Forum Tuesday to focus on HIV employment issues

by Cynthia Laird

In conjunction with Mayor Willie Brown's forthcoming AIDS Summit, one of the subcommittees is holding a public forum on workplace entry and re-entry for people living with HIV/AIDS this Tuesday, December 16, at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy. Subcommittee co-chairs Ron Hill and Paul Vander Waerdt said the purpose of the meeting will be to solicit employer and vocational service provider input for the design and expansion of employment development programs for city residents living with HIV/AIDS. Interested members of the community are welcome to attend.

The mayor's AIDS Summit is scheduled to take place Tuesday, January 27 in the city. Earlier this year, Brown decided to hold the summit to examine the challenges and opportunities created by recent medical advances in HIV/AIDS treatment, and to recommend policy changes so that the city responds effectively and comprehensively to changes in the epidemic.

"I am calling this summit to bring together the key players needed to keep San Francisco on the cutting edge of AIDS/HIV services, and to ensure that these services are available to all who need

them," said Brown.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) estimates that there are now about 8,000 people living with AIDS in San Francisco, not including those who are infected with HIV but who have not been diagnosed with AIDS.

At this week's public forum, the subcommittee will present a report on the preliminary recommendations it has developed over the past four-month planning process, which has involved extensive input from consumers, providers, and others with exper-

iences. Drs. Marcus Conant and Thomas Coates are co-chairs of the steering committee.

Preparations for the January summit are being coordinated by Dick Pabich, a retired political consultant who is living with AIDS. Additional staff support is being provided by Dean Goodwin of the mayor's office, Marcy Fraser of the DPH's AIDS Office, and event producer Michael Brown.

Approximately 1,500 people will be invited by Brown to participate in the summit, including leaders in medicine, research,

Brown decided to hold the summit to examine the challenges and opportunities created by recent medical advances in HIV/AIDS treatment, and to recommend policy changes so that the city responds effectively to changes in the epidemic.

tise or interest in employment-related issues. Hill and Vander Waerdt said the subcommittee is "eager to hear from employers and vocational service providers to ensure that its recommendations are fully responsive to their needs."

Combination antiretroviral treatments, especially protease inhibitors, have improved the quality of life for many PWAs over the past year, while also creating new challenges, such as the expansion of employment development services for the thousands of HIV-positive residents now able to enter or re-enter the workplace.

Other areas of concern

The forum is just the latest in a series of similar meetings that various committees, appointed by Brown, have held to study key issues that have been identified. In addition to employment, those areas are: access to new treatments, adherence to new treatments, testing and reporting, insurance coverage, new prevention models, and future looming is-

healthcare, public policy, government, business, organized labor, media, pharmaceutical, insurance, local churches, AIDS activist groups, community-based AIDS organizations, and social service agencies. There will be seating available for the general public, Pabich said, adding that a ticket-distribution system will be announced at a later date. The summit is also expected to be televised. It is being presented with private, non-government funds raised through the Conant Foundation. ▼

The December 16 forum takes place from 4 to 6 p.m. in the library at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th Street. For more information, call Dr. Louis Colao at (415) 863-1581. Ideas for the summit can be submitted to Mayor's AIDS Summit, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 416, San Francisco, CA 94102. More information is available by calling (415) 554-6657.

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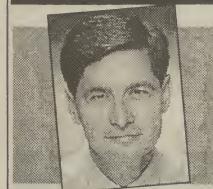
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Willie's way or no way?

Outspoken lesbian fired from city board

by Cynthia Laird

Longtime San Francisco resident and open lesbian Sharon Bretz is the latest public servant to experience the wrath of Mayor Willie Brown; on Wednesday, December 3, she was called by a City Hall staffer and informed her services were no longer needed on the Parking and Traffic Commission. No reason was given, and Bretz told the staff person she would not resign; Brown would have to fire her.

He did.

Bretz, appointed by Brown to the commission two years ago, fired off an angry three-page letter charging one of the reasons she was canned was because she opposed the proposal for an elaborate, integrated handheld computer system to issue parking tickets that could cost the city \$32 million over five years. The firm bidding on the project has strong connections with Lockheed Martin. Bretz said one of Brown's former aides, William G. Rutland, Jr., has done lobbying on behalf of Lockheed.

According to reports filed with the city's Ethics Commission for the first two quarters of 1997, Rutland received \$24,789 from Lockheed Martin for lobbying services in connection with a "contract to collect city's parking and traffic violation receivables."

"The interference of your former top aide-turned lobbyist in the handheld computer contract has cost San Franciscans hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost revenues over the past year," Bretz stated in her letter. She went on to remind Brown that at a mayoral breakfast in March 1996, he told her and some other commissioners to "expeditiously kill" a prior proposal that would have cost only \$300,000 per year.

Brown's spokesperson Kandace Bender denied that charge. "He did not have that conversation with her," Bender told the *Bay Area Reporter*. As for the reason Bretz was let go, Bender said Brown appointed her "to serve at the pleasure of the mayor," meaning she could be dismissed at any time, as is the case with many mayoral appointments.

Although Bender told the B.A.R. that Brown has someone in mind for the post, the mayor's office had not, as of press time, announced a replacement.

Fallon Building angle

Parking and traffic matters aside, Bretz told the B.A.R. that her involvement in the current controversy over the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center Project (CCP) and preserving the Fallon Building at 1800 Market Street was probably also a factor in her dismissal. At the November 19 meeting of the



Sharon Bretz

Mad, but not surprised

In her letter to the mayor, Bretz listed 15 projects she spearheaded during her tenure on the parking and traffic commission. Among them are bicycle programs, parking garage location studies, and the development of at-risk youth employment programs in bike maintenance, curb addresses, and graffiti removal. Bretz also initiated acquisition of grant money for bike racks that are now on 60 Muni buses.

Despite her work while on the commission, Bretz said she never asked the mayor for the appointment. She was critical of Brown and said she's not the only official fired for disagreeing with him. Asked whether she thinks commissioners are afraid to speak out honestly on various issues because they'll be the next ones sacked, Bretz said, "Absolutely. They can't express their feelings, thoughts, or feelings of neighbors."

Several women have been fired, Bretz said, including Denise La Pointe, formerly of the landmarks board; Esther Marks, of the planning commission; and Mary Burns, formerly director of the Recreation and Parks Department. "That indicates the man has a problem with strong, community-based women. I think it's time commissioners and people who work for the city stand up for the city," said Bretz. "Willie Brown's a very dangerous type of mayor because of his aggressive patronage system and these lobbyists."

"Had Willie Brown done his research, he would have found that the majority of gays are in favor of restoration and putting pressure on the CCP board to build a quality new building with the Fallon Building that truly reflects the pride of this community," Bretz said.

She said that it has been primarily gay men in the city's 33 neighborhoods who have taken the lead in restoring Victorians, which she described as being "one of the significant charms of San Francisco."

tween \$1.6 and \$2.6 million, much more than board members originally expected.

"I think that was one of the things," said Bretz, who added she also participated in the November 14 demonstration organized by Friends of 1800 Market Street that took place outside the Hyatt Embarcadero, where the CCP was hosting their Founders' Dinner gala. Brown attended that event and blasted the efforts of preservationists, saying he wants the gay community center built, period.

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Dovre Club

◀ page 1

building that was formerly occupied by the Dovre Club will be taken up primarily by accessibility requirements for bathrooms.

Esperanza Macias, executive director of the popular institution that serves 50,000 women, girls, and families annually, said she is glad the standoff has ended. Last month the Women's Building got help from the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the Reverend Jesse Jackson, who joined the many local leaders in calling upon Mayor Willie Brown to intervene in the dispute. While the Dovre Club had been operating without a lease since 1989, local political heavyweights Jack Davis and Warren Hinckle mobilized patrons and delayed the eviction process.

That's all history now as the Women's Building gets ready for the construction crews. For the patrons of the Dovre Club, the future is uncertain. Manager Brian McElhatton has plans to open another bar, and people were signing up on a mailing list as they drank their beers during the club's waning hours. ▼

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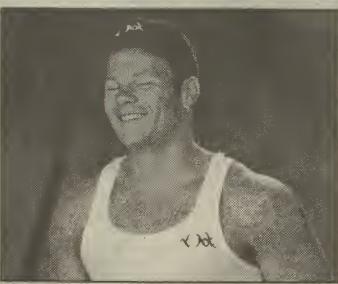


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Foster fosters fostering in & out at school

Sonoma County's LGBTQ youth helped by Positive Images

by Ron Lazar

Positive Images (PI), a gay youth advocacy project started in 1990 in Sonoma County, is now more than ever coming out of the shadows. One of the nation's leading anti-homophobia educational organizations, it brings "in-service" (i.e., "on campus") safe places and gay/straight clubs to some of the most conservative, redneck Northern California high schools, where anti-gay attitudes run rampant.

PI is designed specifically for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, who are courageously speaking out, forming clubs, and hosting panel discussion on campuses on topics such as coming out and HIV prevention.

The community reaction is understandably mixed, but once the educational process about homophobia begins, teachers, parents and peers are not only paying attention, but are "incredibly supportive," according to one of the founders of PI, Jim Foster.

On Sunday, December 7, PI celebrated the progress, lauding those who have devoted themselves to helping achieve successful programs which have benefited 250 youth members since PI began.

Foster, along with co-founder Beverly Laird (who is also instrumental in PFLAG, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), states PI's mission is to "provide advocacy, support, and information to LGBTQ youth of high school and college age. Positive Images also provides education, training, and assistance to health professionals, agencies, and educators who deal with youth."

There is no sign of a top-heavy administration in the project. "Mary Bynum and myself are the adult advisors. We have five peer [youth members] leaders who provide group and office coordination, panel outreach, and HIV

outreach to at-risk youth, and they also publish a newsletter, *Images*," said Foster, who feels that the efficiently collective effort that is at the heart of Positive Images makes it a genuine family, and un sentimentally and simply credits "love" as the core.

One of those honored at the Sunday event, which was billed as "The 3rd Annual Positive Images-PFLAG Thanksgiving Fundraiser Potluck," was Mert Preston, a gay man who came out in his fifties. He now serves as chairman of the board of the Legacy Center, which is the gay, lesbian, bisexual community center, and the nonprofit organization under which, according to Foster, "we are a special project, and have all the benefits therein of their 50 1(c)3. We are in a great marriage with them."

Inside a gay/straight club

The things that go on inside these clubs is exactly what you might expect from a 4H or Future Farmers of America club, according to Foster, who lists as activities, "fundraising, little things like cake sales, selling pins and 'safe space' stickers for classrooms, marching in the Pride parades, and weekly rap sessions with gay/straight kids to look at homophobia on the school level."

Positive Images has established one of the nation's strongest networks for LGBTQ youth so far, creating clubs on campus in the California counties of Sonoma, Mendocino, and Napa under various names such as, "United Sexualities," "Unity," "PROUD" (People Respecting Our United Diversity), "On In Ten," and "PRIDE."

The energetic Foster says, "We want five more high schools this year to have in-services, and gay/straight alliance clubs. There are nine schools now, including Sonoma, Mendocino and Napa counties, that have clubs on campus."

Although gay/straight clubs are gradually finding themselves at home on high school campuses

es, a statewide curriculum is still more slow to develop. In the forefront of this issue is Kevin Jennings of the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Educators Network (GLSEN), who has written a textbook on gay, lesbian and bisexual history, *Becoming Visible*.

Another educational project addressing gay youth is Project 10, reported on by the B.A.R. in 1993, which, Foster says, has "been met with impasse after impasse, and so they are not doing the administrative in-services like they were. They've really taken a backseat."

From the bottom up

Where and how does progress in the schools start? Foster is adamant in his opinion that the place to start is not with the school boards, but with the individual school's administration. Foster says, "On a school board level it is too hot an issue, and they have too much power. The way to start is with the in-school administration, and then they will translate it and have an in-service part, like a day devoted to gay youth issues. Then from that, and usually there are kids sitting on that panel from the school itself, comes immediate sanction for a club."

Consistent with today's fear by large institutions to avoid expensive lawsuits (for example, a school's negligence in preventing harassment of a gay youth), a gay/straight club then becomes an advantage for school boards which, Foster says, "really hear that angle. The approach for establishing a club in a high school that is not successful is going to the superintendent and the board. The way it happens is you go to the school's administration, and if enough teachers will stick out their necks saying, 'These gay kids are being hurt, we need to have an in-service, I know these groups who can come and support that in-service.' Then that happens. When there is so much sensitivity and awareness raised, the club gets in place on that level. When the

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Jim Foster (at microphone) at the Positive Images celebration on December 7.

club is so sanctioned then they [the school board] just endorse it. And the superintendent is much more accommodating to that approach. Sexual harassment suits are very, very costly to a school district. And, boy, it can go from homosexual slurs right down to heterosexual stalking, or harassment, or just touching a girl's arm. So it becomes a plus for a school to have a gay/straight club."

Support from the higher-up straight administrators for gay clubs on campus does exist. Foster is encouraged and sees signs of major progress, yet still has reservations. Last month at an educational conference, Foster recalled, "I saw three incredible straight superintendents so completely compassionate about this issue in the East Bay, and all three superintendents in their high schools had gay/straight alliance clubs." But Foster believes starting with the top level of administration "is still far too risky an approach," and feels that starting clubs on campus is still usually best initiated at a school level and not at the district level.

Open enrollment

Another major factor helping to bring gay students and gay teen services together is California's "Open Enrollment" policy, which began two years ago. Foster explains, "The kids can choose a

high school that has a specialty area, like media, or performing arts or agriculture, et cetera."

At Santa Rosa High School, every Monday at lunch for the past four years, Foster meets with about ten kids. "They come, eat their lunch, talk about homophobic teachers, or homophobic parents, or they are straight kids and they can't bring their gay friends over, because they're out, and their parents can't bear it, so they want support about that. Or they're sick of a teacher who won't shut up about homophobic jokes or slurs."

Solutions? A plethora of approaches spring from a single idea of Foster's, which could be stated simply: as his name so aptly implies, Foster fosters fostering. One approach is to encourage kids to be politically active. "We've gone to the student council. Kids make changes there."

Saving lives

While homophobic pressures towards youth can turn abusive, discriminatory, or violent, Positive Images points the way with an active mentoring program, counseling, and literally, according to some of its young members, "saving lives." The informational brochure PI publishes reminds us that "gay, lesbian and bisexual youth account for 30% of youth suicides in America, 25% have se-

rious substance abuse problems, and 40% run away from home at least once, and thus are at risk for sexually transmitted diseases."

The B.A.R. on April 8, 1993 reported on educators' reactions to the California State Board of Education ruling to include educational materials on gays and lesbians in elementary curriculum. Since then, the issue of educational non-tolerance towards gays has taken on larger, more ominous and grave proportions in another part of the country, when this September, a teenage boy in Utah committed suicide after being repeatedly blocked by his high school administration from having a gay/straight club on campus. The growth curve for the need for PI is "growing constantly," says Foster, and "more kids are coming out younger." Last week, for example, Foster met with a 12-year-old seventh grade lesbian and her parents.

"The girl is so clear about her sexuality," Foster told the B.A.R., "and so for anybody to say 'you're too young to know' is just a travesty. The parents' main concern is that she find a support group where she is safe." ▼

Any young LGBTQ person can call Positive Images at (707) 579-4947, or fax (707) 575-3745, or e-mail jpfposimag@aol.com. For additional support, contact: PFLAG Sonoma County (707) 431-8364 Legacy, Sonoma County Lesbian & Gay Community Center Info Line (707) 526-0442.

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Sonoma Valley High School - "PROUD" (707) 935-6014
Advisor: Betsy Hofsteader

Healdsburg High School - "UNITY" (707) 431-3420
Advisor: Silvia Todd

Napa High School - "United Sexualities" (707) 253-3711
Advisor: Savina Furtauer

Ukiah High School - "One In Ten" (707) 463-5253 ext.277
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Josh Puckett speaks about the night of Poliakov's murder

by Dennis Conkin

Joshua Puckett, the 17-year-old Atascadero youth charged with the August 31 murder of Vitaly "Steve" Poliakov, a 29-year-old gay San Francisco man, was arraigned before a Contra Costa judge for the crime December 4, and faces further arraignment today (Thursday, December 11). On the verge of what many say could have been an international modeling career, Puckett, who appears on the cover of the December issue of XY magazine, faces 26 years to life in a state prison if convicted of Poliakov's murder.

In an exclusive 90-minute taped interview obtained by the *Bay Area Reporter*, Puckett says he is neither gay nor bisexual, and deeply regrets killing the Russian émigré. In the telephone interview with KGO producer Ed Walsh, Puckett also talks about other aspects of his past and present life, including the time he spent in San Francisco. Puckett revealed that he had worked briefly at Pozole and Paulo's Juice Bar, and frequented the Cafe Flore in the Castro district.

Puckett told Walsh that Poliakov, whom he knew only as "Steve," plied him with drugs, including methamphetamine, the night before the murder, and that he was defending himself against sexual assault when he killed Poliakov.

Authorities do not believe the sexual assault claim, and say that Puckett is using the victim's homosexuality as an excuse for murder.

Puckett was sentenced in November to a five-year state prison term for violating the requirements of probation, in connection with an earlier armed robbery in San Luis Obispo County.

Puckett was ordered to be tried as an adult for that crime, and will be tried as an adult in Contra Costa County for Poliakov's murder.

Authorities allege that after bludgeoning Poliakov to death with a cedar bottle, Puckett and accomplice Mandy Kiser (who is also in police custody) stuffed the victim's body into the back seat of his 1997 Mercedes and drove 240 miles from Orinda, California to Atascadero, and dumped the body into a creek near a state mental hospital. Puckett was also charged with possessing stolen property.

The following edited excerpts are taken from Walsh's interview with the youth.

Walsh: Where do you think the information came from that you were gay?

Puckett: I imagine, originally from the victim's friends, I guess. From the victim, I met his friends. I have a bunch or articles in front of me from up there. It says I had started a sexual relationship with the victim a week earlier. It says police are investigating the nature of the relationship and have been told the pair were lovers. I don't know where this information came from. I imagine it's from police going around talking to people. They seem to be trying to connect the fact that I'm gay —

which I am not — and then going and interviewing my friends, and they've been telling them the exact same thing. I am not gay.

The articles mentioned that you met him in a gay club.

Yeah. Club Universe.

What kind of relationship did you have with him?

Um, I didn't. It was just friends. I'm sure you know Pozole's, the restaurant — I worked there for a little bit — 2337 Market Street, right in front of the Castro. I know many, many gay males, either gay or bi males, and I am not one of them. I have nothing wrong with it. I'm very open, but

stance. I woke up, and I saw what was happening.

You are saying that it was influenced by drugs?

Well, yeah. Considering I was on several drugs at the time, and all the drugs had come from him to begin with. Cocaine, crystal, crank — those were the drugs that came from him. I'd also been drinking and smoking marijuana before he came over to the house.

Do you think that the drugs probably affected your thinking and your memory?

Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. I'd never even done the drugs he brought over, and that night I did a lot of them

Basically, it's like it said in the B.A.R. That was accurate, except about the fact of my sexuality.

for the first time.

What goes through your mind after something like this? After you killed him? You say you killed him in self-defense? What next? What were you thinking next? What were you thinking after that?

I didn't feel I had to kill him in self-defense. I just felt I had to get him off of me and away from me. I didn't mean for it to happen. I don't think anybody should ever mean for such a thing to happen to somebody else. Taking someone's life is the worst thing you can do to anybody.

So: you were trying to get him away from you and you just — what happened?

Um, I'd rather not think about it. I don't want to talk about how the thing happened.

What about what happened afterwards, in terms of you first being arrested by the police? How did all that come about? When did you first realize the police were onto you?

How did it all come about? I — I — um — basically, I was flipping out, and I couldn't believe what happened, afterwards. I just didn't know how to deal with anything. I didn't know what I wanted to do and where I wanted to go, how to deal with it. Turn myself in, run, do what. I didn't know what I wanted to do.

What did you wind up doing?

Exactly. What do you do? What does one do?

I take it you decided that you needed to dispose of his body?

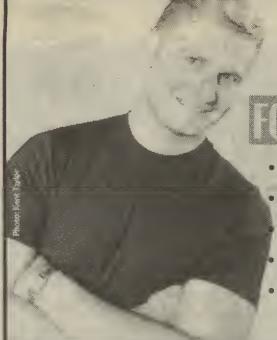
I mean, I'm into a huge problem. I'm 17-years-old, and I'm on a lot of drugs. You see a person in front of you that's not alive anymore, and you are going berserk in your mind. What do you do? Do you call the cops? I wasn't thinking

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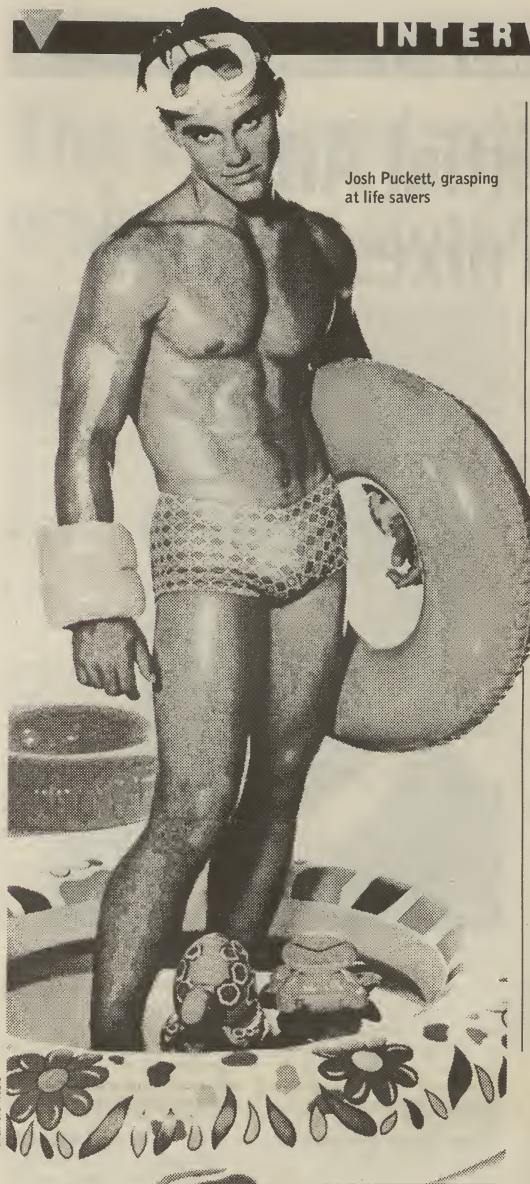
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INTERVIEW



Josh Puckett, grasping at life savers

That you think it's important for people to know about this crime? People that might question your actions and might question what you are saying?

I can't even begin to express the remorse that I feel for what has happened. Taking one person's life has got to be the most awful thing you can even think about doing.

Getting back to that, there was a quote from the [Contra Costa County] District Attorney [Barry Grove] in the wire story that came out a few days ago. He had said that he didn't understand why you were so thrown off by this advance, because you had been around gay people and why you would be freaked out if some man made an advance.

It wasn't an advance. Sure. People come up to you and they ... I have had several gay people come up to me and hit on me, and I tell them I'm straight and they understand and leave it at that. You know, most people do. I woke up to find this - he wasn't trying to - he was trying to open my pants.

I don't know, that's not hitting on someone and saying, hey you're cute ... that's assault. That's not an advance or anything. I don't know how to really explain it. I have no problem with anybody. I mean, what you do is your business. What I do is my business. You don't concern me with yours, and I won't concern - I mean, you know - don't -

Basically, I'm very open. You can do whatever you like, I just don't do things the way you do things. And you know that that's fine by me. But, you know this

was a blunt violation of my rights - I don't know how to say it.

But at this point, you didn't feel like you could push him away?

It wasn't just that. I passed out several times in the process. The first time I tried to push him away, and I passed out. I imagine it had to do with the drugs. Because when I exerted myself, I passed out - for the few times I exerted myself. It wasn't until he became aggressive that I became aggressive, you could say. At one point he was just saying, "Shut up." I don't know how to say this. I don't want it to come out wrong. He wasn't being subtle about it. Let's put it that way.

You felt you couldn't get up and leave?

I tried.

You tried and what happened when you tried?

He basically attacked me.

Sexually attacking you or physically attacking you?

Both. More physically to get to the sexually attacking part.

What kinds of things did he do?

Basically, he just tried to hold me down.

I don't think it would have been much of a problem had I not been on the drugs I was on. I don't think anything of this nature would have happened had I not been on the drugs I was on. I'd never even been on these drugs before. ▼



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about that. I mean I'm trying to say all of this in the right way - I just don't want to say anything wrong - to get out in the wrong way - because if anything goes out in the wrong way, it could completely screw me over. I've been advised by every single person I know not to talk to you.

That's fine, you can take your time, it's up to you. Say whatever you want to say, or don't say whatever you don't want to say. Take your time and think about it before you answer. This is your opportunity to say what you want to say. That's the point, people seeing that article, reading these

accounts, are going to question what happened afterwards, and were your actions consistently with somebody who was -

I wanted to get rid of everything that happened. I didn't want to have to remember anything.

That's why you took the car and took the body, just to get rid of everything?

Just to get rid of all the memories of everything. I was scared shitless. I was scared out of my mind. I didn't know what to do.

Anything else you'd like to add?

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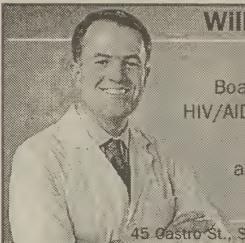
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Presidential AIDS Council nixes Clinton

by Bob Roehr

The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS in its "Second Progress Report" was blunt: "Progress in the federal response to AIDS has stalled in recent months, contributing to a sense of diminished priority for AIDS issues during the President's second term."

Councilmembers hammered out final language at their meeting in Washington, DC, December 4-7. The report praised President Clinton for the steps he has taken, but noted that "most of the important strides occurred during the President's first term." It singled out lack of leadership on ADAP funding, Medicaid expansion, needle exchange programs, and other prevention activities.

While the report was critical, its language was more restrained than the first one, which was issued in July 1996. Perhaps it was an indication of the group being reined in by the administration.

Chairman R. Scott Hitt, MD, opened the meeting by reminding members that their role is solely advisory. More ominously, he said that Council Executive Director Daniel Montoya "can terminate a public meeting if he feels it is in the best interest of the government to do so." That brought nervous laughter from the members.



Scott Hitt M.D., Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS chair.

Bob Roehr

A first draft of the report had been circulated among a limited number of AIDS organizations and within the administration for comments. Many of the latter objected to its sharp language. Ten drafts later the final report issued by the council had been shorn of its edges, turned into a document produced by committee.

Needle exchange

The council noted that at least half of new HIV infections can be traced to injection drug use. It renewed earlier calls for the administration to lift the ban on federal funding of needle exchange programs. It chastised them for making "little effort to educate Congress and the American public" about those programs "or to build political support" for the change.

In a separate letter to the president, the council urged him to lift the ban before Congress comes back into session on January 27. The Department of Health and Human Services should immediately begin work on "guidelines for needle exchange programs, as part of a continuum of an HIV prevention program. ... The debate at this time should no longer be if, but how needle exchange programs should be established."

Talk of resignation over this issue was more restrained than at previous meetings. Many of the members have long decided that resignation is not in their plans, while others clutched at the deadline as a reason to postpone a decision. The question is likely to arise again at their March meeting, if only because of public pressure from AIDS activists.

Names reporting

The council's bitterest debate came over names reporting of people who test positive for HIV. No one advocated such programs, which are now in effect in 30 states, but the prevention committee put forward a detailed recommendation that did not foreclose such an option.

It tried to shift the framework of debate away from a debate be-

tween simple names reporting of unique identifiers. It sought a broader discussion of what we really need in a surveillance system that will make it a useful tool for effectively shaping prevention efforts and planning for delivery of care.

"We concluded that data should drive a decision" on names reporting, said committee co-chair Mike Isbell, former policy director of GMHC. He compared it to what the community has asked of needle exchange programs, where research overwhelmingly supports implementing such programs.

But there is little research on the impact of names reporting or alternative surveillance on either the quality of data obtained or its effect on driving people away from getting tested. The committee strongly recommended that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) make no changes in surveillance until they assess and report back on the impact of various options, including names reporting.

Tom Henderson, a PWA from Texas, put forward an amendment to have the council go on record as opposing names reporting. He noted the efforts in Congress which are driving the political debate on this question.

Debra Fraser-Howze argued that "we lose our credibility if we say one thing on needle exchange and another on surveillance." She wanted to "look at all of the possibilities ... and let evidence drive this."

Terje Anderson said, "Most people with HIV in this country are going to end up on a government benefit program at one point or another," so those names will be reported anyway. "You will end up with the only people being reported are privileged people who don't need government programs, in a few states" where they have political clout.

After strong debate and some modifications of language, the body added "its strong reserva-

next page ▶

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The administration waives on Medicaid

by Bob Roehr

White House drops plans for Medicaid to cover cost of AIDS drugs," read the *New York Times* headline on Saturday, December 6. The decision, long talked of privately, was now public. While the Clinton administration insisted that did not mean it had given up on efforts to expand access to therapy for low-income people, it offered no other options that they were exploring.

AIDS advocates have long sought to extend access to care for PWAs through an expansion of Medicaid under the waiver process. Their aim is to implement federal treatment guidelines for HIV. They thought they had won the political game in April, when Vice President Al Gore made a commitment to a fast track exploration and decision. But the idea now seems dead, and advocates are fighting mightily to keep it from being completely buried.

"Right now, only by will of the Vice President saying politically that he has put his butt on the line that he wants to have this happen, is it happening," said Clinton administration official Bob Hattay, a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

One anonymous administration official told the *Times* that they feared pressure from other disease groups to include them in any expansion of Medicaid. The White House didn't want to offer those with HIV special treatment or appear unfair.

Todd Summers, deputy to Sandra Thurman in the Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP), said the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) opposed creating a pilot program in Medicaid. HHS had serious ethical questions "around creating a small group of people that would be allowed access to drug treatments" while others were not. Left unexplained was how this differed from the status quo.

'Revenue-neutrality'

The principal sticking point for the administration is "revenue-neutrality" — in other words, it might cost money. Although number-crunchers investigated the theory that over a five-year period the reduced costs for hospitalization would offset increased costs of early intervention with drug therapy, HHS's Victor Zonona said, "We kept running it with different assumptions, but we weren't able to make it come out."

The previous day, the services



Tom Henderson of Texas, member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

committee of the President's Council closely questioned working level administration officials on the issue.

Tom Henderson asked if in computing revenue-neutrality they could consider items outside of Medicaid. "We have not so far," said Kathleen King with the Health Care Finance Administration. That policy was formulated under the Bush administration and continued by Clinton, but is not law.

HHS official Gary Claxton said that they "preliminarily included Medicare, SSI, and SSDI in calculations, but found it was a fairly limited additional savings," primarily because their time frame was five years. Most costs during that period are Medicaid, while offsetting expense accrued over a longer time. They did not take into account savings from preventing new infections or added tax revenue from keeping people healthy and employed.

Claxton said that on a national basis they don't believe Medicaid expansion would be revenue-neutral. But he left the door open to states to submit proposals that could create savings in other parts of their state Medicaid programs and move those savings into increased services for people with HIV. Thus he shifted the political, and likely the financial, burden from the federal government to the states.

"I hear you saying that you continue to look at this, but in the next breath you say, you can't get there from here," said Henderson. "You've got to step outside of what has traditionally been con-

sidered with revenue-neutrality." Councilmember Nicholas Bollman added, "False hope is just as bad as if you were not working on it at all."

Christine Lubinski, lobbyist for the AIDS Action Council, lashed out at the Clinton administration. She said that Maine, Massachusetts, and Florida are actively preparing waiver applications "in the absence of any leadership from the federal government, including even a letter suggesting this might be an interesting idea. It is not something states are going to dream up without feeling that there is some support from the Feds." She has been asking for a Federal letter for eight months, "and that hasn't happened."

"This is an HHS issue of thinking outside the box," she said. "Budget neutrality is not statutory. If this administration decides it is in the national interest to expand access to care to keep people with HIV alive, they need to demonstrate the political will to do so. Because that is what this is about."

Councilmember Rabbi Joseph Edelheit concluded, "As long as budget neutrality remains the fundamental template, this will always be some strange cat-and-mouse thing that has nothing to do with access to people with HIV/AIDS." ▼

AIDS Council

◀ previous page

questions regarding the use of a national HIV names reporting surveillance system."

Wrap up

"You've got to keep up the pressure" on needle exchange and Medicaid waivers, said chairman Hitt in his closing remarks. "We are on the verge of losing both of these issues. And you all know that. Without a substantive amount of pressure, both of these issues are going to come out the

wrong way."

AIDS activist critics of the council are many. One pointed to the comic strip Dilbert which appeared that Sunday. In it, the character Wally states, "It all started when I realized I have no impact. ... So I learned to take pride in my process instead of my results. Everything I do is still pointless, but I'm very proud of the way I do it." ▼

The council report is available online at SFAF.org and soon will be circulated to a number of AIDS organizations.

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Kenneth Edward Grant
June 23, 1967 – Dec. 6, 1997

After a courageous fight, Ken has left us for his field of dreams. Ken came to most of us through the love of his life: softball. Anyone who watched him play was astonished by his skill. The smooth grace and ease with which he played was matched only by his "in the dirt" competitiveness.

Ken first hit the Sacramento Gay Softball League then landed on LYRIC's softball team in 1994. He became a Daddy's Toons member in 1995.

Ken was in a wheelchair by midsea-

son 1995, but that didn't keep him down. He was up by the end of the season and soared through the last game of Stormy Leather's battle in the 1995 World Series in Seattle, returning to San Francisco with the Team MVP award for the week!

Ken then started a team sponsored by Dennis Peron and the original Cannabis Buyers Club. The CBC Heat was born in 1996, and Ken was voted Manager of the Year. His team, the Roaches, hit the field in 1997. Both years, his teams won the True-Spirit Award from the SFGL.

Memorial services will be held December 13 at 1 p.m. at the CCC, 1444 Market Street (at Van Ness Avenue). A special memorial softball game will be played that day at 3:30 p.m. at Lang Field: The Mamas and the Papas vs. The Mystery Team. For more information, call Ray Tilton at (510) 655-4163.

Michael Bryan Grinnell
July 10, 1958 – Nov. 22, 1997

Bryan died suddenly after a long battle with AIDS on November 22. He was a resident of San Francisco for over 20 years. According to Bryan's last wishes, there will be a memorial service held in Scarsdale, N.Y., and a funeral in Bern, Switzerland.

Bryan is survived by his mother, Margrit; father, Roy; sister, Lisette; brother, Tim; beloved friends, Graham, Chrissy, Lori, Kay, Manuela, Dibz and Sally; as well as many friends he made during his many years in San Francisco.

The Grinnell family would like to thank Dr. Poscher, his many friends at the Infusion Center of Mt. Zion Medical Center and the many services that gave

Bryan so much loving support during his illness.

Bryan's gentle, loving nature and love for life will be forever remembered and sorely missed by us all.

Bob Lang
Nov. 17, 1963 – Nov. 27, 1997

Bob Lang died November 27 in Windsor, Calif., after a very courageous battle with cancer. Private services were held in Windsor on November 30.

Bob was born to Rose Crow and Al Lang on November 17, 1963. He was raised in Notus, Idaho, and later moved to California.

Bob will be truly missed by all who knew him; his big smile and warm caring heart always found the good in everyone. He loved people, the outdoors, camping, singing, traveling, the ocean and especially its beaches. No matter where he went, Bob could light up any room with his loving smile, and his eyes shining bright like stars made everyone feel loved and happy.

Bob was preceded in death by his father, Al Lang. He is survived by his mother, Rose Crow of Notus, Idaho; his partner, Bill Rebich of Windsor; and his brothers and sisters, Max Lang of Caldwell and Connie Williams, Palma Brown and Boyce Dupree, all of Notus, Idaho. Any contributions to the family should go to Rose Nell Crow, P.O. Box 4, Notus, Idaho 83656.

They're in the money

Charitable grants fund AIDS groups

by Dennis Conkin

The depleted coffers of more than a score of locally-based AIDS and lesbian and gay community service groups have been replenished with some much-needed cash thanks to the fundraising efforts of Macy's West, the Red Hot Organization, Castro Street Fair, and the High-brow Society.

In commemoration of World AIDS Day, Macy's West distributed \$150,000 in funds to 14 local organizations dedicated to HIV/AIDS treatment and care. The funds are part of a \$400,000 distribution of grants to 44 groups in the six-state Macy's West region.

The grants are from the 1997 Macy's Passport Fund, according to Macy's West spokeswoman Merle Goldstone, and are endowed by the popular annual Passport fall fashion show AIDS fundraisers held in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

This year's Passport event, co-chaired by Elizabeth Taylor and Earvin "Magic" Johnson, raised a record-breaking \$2 million, Goldstone said.

Proposals for funding were submitted by 80 groups, and the grantees were selected after review



This year's Macy's Passport event raised more than \$2 million.

of the applications by a "diverse committee" of HIV/AIDS service leaders and corporate and foundation grantmakers.

Groups receiving grants included AIDS Benefits Counselors, which received \$10,000, and ACT UP Golden Gate, which received \$7,500 for AIDS treatment advocacy. The Glide-Goodlett Foundation received \$12,500 to develop

HIV-related harm reduction materials used by street-based outreach workers who live in the communities they serve.

AIDS Project of the East Bay received a \$10,000 grant to support its Community Resource Client Activity Program, which provides volunteer support services to people living with HIV,

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On Wednesday, December 3rd, 1997, San Francisco lost one of its beautiful children. Like many before him, Shane Gambrel came to San Francisco from Montana looking for his place in the world.

Shane was an intelligent and truly beautiful spirit who cared deeply for those he loved. He would eagerly give the shirt off his back, even if it was his last. Or, like a big brother, try to protect you from harm's way, even when he was the one who really needed guidance.

Shane was always willing to offer advice and to teach. As a friend, he never really asked for much, just an occasional ear and a little understanding. The world is a cruel place for those that never lose their innocence. Shane seemed so angry at the world, but those of us who loved him knew it was a mask for his pain. We only hope that during his brief life, he felt the love we all had for him. Now in death, Shane teaches us how fragile and how beautiful life really is. He will never know how much he will be missed. We love you Shane!

There will be a memorial gathering on Sunday, December 14th at 4pm. For details, contact Bryan Hughes or Ken Cimino at (415) 431-7548, or Dale Golden at (415) 558-8808.

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Mad doctors and media

by Bill Snow, ACT/UP
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Are they angry, or crazy? In August IAPAC, the International Association of Physicians for AIDS Care, issued a call for doctors and healthcare professionals who would be willing to volunteer for a safety trial in humans of a live but genetically weakened strain of the AIDS virus to be used as a live attenuated vaccine. By October, they claimed 50 doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers had signed up, and that they had scheduled a meeting with NIH to discuss their plans.

With echoes of the underground Compound Q trials years ago, national media picked up this story and ran with it. It was covered widely, largely by television, so it was hard to get the whole story from the sound bites and the few individuals identified as volunteers. In theory, this is a reasonable approach. Attenuated Simian Immune Deficiency Virus (SIV) has been, by far, the most effective approach in monkey experiments in protecting against challenge with disease-causing SIV. Most viral vaccines in use in humans are live attenuated strains of the virus lacking the potential to make the individual sick, and in general, live attenuated strains induce the strongest, longest-lasting immunity, since they replicate in the vaccinated person. The virus can be attenuated as much as desired by genetically engineering mutations, particularly in the nef gene of the virus, which has been shown to be missing in some long term non-progressors. Three to five genes can be deleted to weaken the virus, but each deletion weakens the immune response as well.

This approach has never been tested in humans, because many researchers believe it would be too risky and that we should try safer approaches first. In fact, vaccine design and testing for humans has proceeded from the safest approaches, which are genetically engineered segments of HIV that carry no risk of infection. About a dozen such designs have been tested, and the most promising are moving ahead in human trials.

There are three major safety concerns with attenuated HIV. First is that volunteers may eventually get sick from the attenuated HIV. The weakened virus would live indefinitely in the individual, under the control of his or her immune system. For any number of reasons, including aging, the virus might cause AIDS many years down the line. No safety trial could be long enough to disprove this speculation. IAPAC says we should start now and see. But a few protected monkeys have recently begun to show signs of illness after several years, and animals are not always kept alive long enough to follow them for the rest of their natural lives.

Secondly, the mutated virus might mutate again, to compensate for the engineered mutations, and become more virulent. Such compensatory mutations appear to be the cause for at least some of the illness in monkeys. Propponents argue, however, that deleting enough genes can eliminate this risk.

Finally, and much more speculative, is the possibility that the

attenuated HIV, which integrates in the vaccines' DNA, may trigger a cancer by inserting mutations into other important genes. Again, it would be hard to disprove this in just a few years in humans, which is one standard for treatments given to people already sick. Often such problems are very rare and only surface after many hundreds or thousands of people have used a therapy or vaccine for a long time.

Vax facts

At the National Vaccine Advocates Forum in San Diego last month, we discovered that somehow the message had come across that these doctors had already

taken the vaccine. People assumed that these "brave heroes" were risking their lives to move things forward faster, and that there was a need for such altruistic guinea pigs. Here's the true status of the story:

- There is no vaccine to test yet.

The small company that has the rights to make genetically engineered attenuated HIV (Therion Biologics) is not doing so yet, and has no intention of taking the risk of putting such a virus into humans at this time, even with willing volunteers.

A few groups have suggested using naturally attenuated HIV from long-term non-progressors, but even the one virus, from Australia, which was transfused into several others who haven't progressed has had one case where an individual died with some immune problems (systemic lupus with low CD4 and PCP). A group in Cleveland is inserting what is known as a suicide gene into the attenuated virus so it can be killed if problems arise.

- There is no trial design yet. It would take considerable work to design a meaningful human trial that would add to our knowledge about the safety and efficacy of this approach in a timely way.

- The Food and Drug Administration may not approve such human trials. An underground trial has been proposed, but would certainly be harder to enroll, conduct, and monitor.

- Animal testing is proceeding more rapidly. This approach is not totally stalled. Recently, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative and NIH have sponsored larger, more comprehensive animal trials to study safety that probably should be concluded before human trials are considered:

- If they work, safer approaches would be more practical under many circumstances. In their favor for ultimate implementation, attenuated vaccines are powerful and long lasting because they stay in the body, and relatively inexpensive to make. But because of the safety issues, they may only be justified in the highest risk populations. These occur in the developing world, where it is often hard to screen against other immune problems that may make the vaccine unsafe. At least for general use, a safer vaccine would be much more justifiable for mass immunization, especially in developed countries.

In its meeting with NIH in September, IAPAC agreed to define a critical path toward human trials. This would include: getting a product, designing a trial, drafting an informed consent document and process, designing larg-

er-scale, longer-term monkey and chimp studies that would more clearly define some of the risks, and considering the impact of other, concurrent infections that may be common in HIV-susceptible populations.

Deleted, but deadly?

Many prominent scientists and groups have spoken against the IAPAC initiative, or have stated reservations about it. Dr. Anthony Fauci from NIAID thinks a small safety trial won't give the answers we need. Dr. Art Ammann from Amfar thinks the dangers of this approach may scare people away from the safe approaches that need volunteers and need to move ahead quickly. Even some of the original volunteers who signed up through the IAPAC website have had second thoughts.

Dr. Ruth Ruprecht of the Dana-Farber Institute has been very outspoken about the risks. She told *New Scientist*, "Our results [in monkeys] are rather shocking. The deleted version of the virus can still cause AIDS."

In November, the IAPAC doctors announced that they would have a proposal next month to present to FDA, that the number of volunteers is up to 300, and that they hope to have a human trial underway in 6 months to a year. The latest *IAVI Report* estimates more conservatively that "it could be two years before a product is even ready for testing," while the Australian group said studies could begin within 18 months. We'll see. ▶



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Research with Compassion

Crunched

by Jim Provenzano

Jake Seinfeld, trainer to the stars, recently made an appearance on, of all channels, *The 400 Club*. The large, hair-implanted lug who was once moderately famous as one of the first "personal trainers" to the stars has now sunk to being only Jerry Seinfeld's brother. Whereas his younger sibling goes on television for a million bucks an episode, Jake apparently has plenty of time to shuffle through the seamy underbelly of televangelical broadcasting and chum it up with none other than Pat Robertson, the squint-eyed antichrist himself.

Robertson - who, of anyone, is in need of a spiritual training session, in addition to a few forced pull-ups - gabbed it up with Seinfeld, who, of course, was hawking his latest book, something about motivating and doing anything you want (like selling your soul to promote your bogus waste of dead trees, Jakey?). Don't get me wrong: I'm glad for Jake's career. Without his help, the world would be full of chubby stars. And we can't have that, can we!

On a more local basis, let's consider the species known as a "personal trainer" and the type of person who requires one. The trainer can be spotted quite easily at the gym. He's the one with the clipboard, beeper, and best arms in the place. He's either waiting at the cafe area for a late client, or helping a somewhat sagging, out of shape, and usually older male trying another few arm curls. Some-

times he even drives a BMW. Wouldn't you, if you were making \$45 an hour?

I see the clients of trainers mostly articulating their jaw muscles. It seems they're paying for company more than forced exercise. And what can be said about someone who can afford, or has to pay someone else, to get them to work out? Certainly disparaging jokes can be had, but face it. Some people don't have muscular friends they can turn to for tips on how to work out. They don't even have friends who work out.

It's the same with smoking. How do you quit when all your friends smoke? You quit those friends until you can figure out how to be around them without craving it, or scolding them for still smoking.

And while I found the sales pitch of many trainers to be amusing, and convincing even, with the veiled illusion of sexual enticements kept somewhere dancing in the background, the idea of having a big muscled guy assist me in my efforts at muscularity is rather fine indeed, considering the talent pool.

But the real secret of working out is sadly and boringly and painfully true. Step #1: Lift heavy object. Step #2: Repeat ad infinitum.

This theory has, however, been twisted and garnished and marketed into more variations than anyone a few decades back (out-

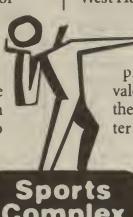
side of Joe Weider) could have believed. Fitness is a billion-dollar-a-year industry.

An especially lurid example of it is CRUNCH!, the fitness franchise whose goldmine branch is at the apex of Sunset Boulevard and Crescent Heights in fashionable West Hollywood, the multiplex of theatres, shops, and Wolfgang Puck's, home of the \$30 pizza. There you can get valet parking to take you to the escalator to the Stairmaster! God forbid you would have to walk to your chosen form of disco beat torture.

It is also in this corporate arena that the strange cult of Spinning gained its popularity. Not unlike the Scientologists, these glaring buildings and their spawn have wormed their way into the entirety of show business and beyond.

Now they are coming to our city. At 1000 Van Ness, where there was once a stately Edwardian high rise, and for a time, the Democratic Party headquarters, there will soon be a multiplex of athleticism that suburbanites and commuting guppies will flock to. I can just see the traffic jams the entrance to the parking lot will cause, as hundreds upon hundreds of secretaries and administrative assistants rush the changing rooms on the first day to be the first to sport the latest in Lycra.

The favorite, of course, is Spinning, cycling a la techno beat. Call



me crazy, but I like my bicycles with two wheels.

And what is it with the music? I mean, aren't people already panting and their hearts thumping hard enough without having to suffer the additional torture of yet another remix of "I'm Your Barbie Girl!"?

Can you see it? A big 8.5er earthquake. Fifth floor of the new CRUNCH! The poor fools won't even hear the walls crumbling around them. As other more sane patrons flee the building, those damned hypnotized Spinners will keep on going, turning, spinning, spinning, as their micro-fascist instructor verbally whips them on. "Five more, and one, and two, and three..."

I always knew the end of Western Civilization was coming soon. I just didn't know it would be so tacky.

Park it!

For young gay guys who are into sports of a more natural form, this weekend's Gameboys is for you. Somewhere between the preening queens on Speedo Ridge and the type A tennis players near Mission High School will be a safe space for 20somethings to meet in a non-bar environment.

Q Action, the Young Men's Program of STOP AIDS Project, is sponsoring a day of fun for "those queer boys who hated PE and were always the last ones picked for baseball." If you're queer, under 25, or a friend of a guy under 25, do definitely stop by Dolores Park, 18th & Dolores, this Sunday, December 14, at 1 p.m. This is so cool! Be there! Meet at the Jungle Gym. For more info, call (415) 431-2ACT ext. 777. ▼

Oh, Phuket!



JAMES JACOBSON

Join the Northern California Rainbow Divers for a two-week exotic land and dive expedition to Thailand. You'll dive the Similan Islands of the Andaman Sea and take one of two land excursion options: Phuket and environs in the south, or northern Thailand's Golden Triangle. The trip leaves SF February 26 for Phuket. Prices vary according to what options you choose. Space is limited. Please call Greg Abrams at (415) 863-4774 immediately if interested. Pictured here: NCR diver Marla Jurosek off the island of Bonaire.

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Batt goes to bat for Castro and Upper Market merchants

by Dennis Conkin

The newly-elected president of the 160 businesses that make up the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro says business involvement is an essential ingredient in the life and health of a community, and that he will be a proactive and vocal leader during his tenure with the group.

Patrick Batt, the owner of Mercury Mail Order and Auto Erotica, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his Thursday, December 4 election to the post means that the membership group will take increasingly visible positions on issues concerning merchants, and neighborhood quality of life issues ranging from the need for increased city services to panhandling.

"Panhandling — as opposed to homelessness," Batt said. "There's a difference. The neighborhood is being overrun by panhandlers who make big bucks in the Castro."

Another issue of concern to Batt, a 17-year San Francisco resident, is whether merchants and residents who pay sales and business taxes are getting the best bang from local government for their hard-earned bucks.

"One of the first things I'm going to do is contact the State Franchise Tax board," Batt said. "I

believe we raise a lot of sales tax for the City and County of San Francisco, and I want to get funds to the Castro for services."

Batt said that demographic and financial information about the annual amount of sales and other taxes generated in the neighborhood should be available — by zip code — and he wants to use the figures to convince local elected officials that it's in the

away," he said.

Batt noted that "after yapping at the Castro Street Fair for two years" the fair group recently distributed more than \$23,000 in funds to local nonprofit efforts to serve community residents — and also spruced up the neighborhood.

Batt, whose popular mail order business has been a Castro area fixture for ten years, recently

in the window of my store, but they were passing out the fliers for the Sex Ball with the guy's legs spread, showing a big dick. What did that have to do with a dance?"

He is pleased that the gift shop Does Your Father Know? posted over the sexually explicit display in its window for a brief period — as had been requested by the principal of the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy elementary school.

While Patrick Batt acknowledges there is some concern about the gentrification of the Castro, he thinks that the neighborhood will continue to retain its historic gay identity.

city's interests to provide services to the area.

"The Castro's getting a little seedy, and I'm worried that it's going the way Polk Street did several years back. The street should be steam-cleaned, and we could use a second police officer," he said.

Another item in the forefront of Batt's agenda is that groups who use the neighborhood — for film festivals, street fairs, and similar events — should give funds back to the neighborhood.

"I believe they have a social obligation to add to the community when they take something

opened Auto-Erotica, across the way from his 18th Street shop.

Neon dick, yes; dick flyers, no

The onetime manager of South of Market's SF Eagle bar and office manager for Drummer magazine, Batt is intimately familiar with business in general and gay business in particular — and his take on the recent "penis flap" in the Castro over sexually explicit flyers and window advertising might surprise some.

"I think it was really blown out of proportion. I have a neon dick

"It kind of fizzled. All they wanted was to be able to have the kids walk through the Castro to celebrate Halloween for an hour. I didn't understand what the difference was," he said.

Batt said that another goal he has is to dramatically increase the number of businesses which belong to the merchant group — and that tourism is a big boost to the area merchants — but there are issues about the direction of the business interests.

While he acknowledges there is some concern about the gentrification of the Castro, he thinks



Patrick Batt

that the neighborhood will continue to retain its historic gay identity — and that while the proliferation of chain stores are a city-wide issue, the small business climate in the Castro is "strong and vital."

"With the F-Line being extended to Pier 39, the Castro will continue to become a destination point. Do we turn it into a little Disneyland, or do we keep our individuality?"

And whether or not it matters if a Castro business is gay-owned, Batt said that if merchants offer excellent quality merchandise at a good value, cost-conscious consumers will spend money regardless of their sexual orientation.

And merchants, whether they are small or not, will be asked to take a strong and active role in the life of the neighborhood and the Castro community during Batt's tenure with Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, he said. ▼

AEF funds

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overhead?"

Throughout its existence, AEF has enjoyed a reputation for being one of the leanest, most efficient and cost-effective AIDS service organizations anywhere. It has managed to ensure that 90 cents of every dollar it raises goes directly to client services. In fact, according to Fry, last year that ratio turned out to be 93 cents per dollar, while so far this year it is 92 cents.

"The fund prides itself on its commitment to striving for a low overhead," said outgoing AEF board member and immediate past president Leslie Ewing. "Having a working board and an effective office staff of three, we have sustained our overhead at around ten percent."

Smaller grants or area?

The question Ewing, current AEF President Ken Turner, and others AEF board members put to the audience was how to raise additional revenues without compromising AEF's 90/10 grants-to-overhead ratio.

Loren Berthelsen, AEF's vice president, laid out a number of possible proposals for bringing in new revenues. Among the ideas he invited public feedback on was the possibility of adjusting grants each year to reflect available revenues. Yet already AEF has reduced its grant level from \$500 to \$400 this year, he reiterated, and "we don't feel reducing it further is a viable thing to do, because it starts getting to the point where the money isn't going to make a substantial difference for someone to meet their emergency requirements."

Another idea would be to reinstate the AEF former policy of limiting clients' eligibility to two

years. "We don't want to do that," said Berthelsen. "Obviously, our clients need us for a longer period of time."

The AEF could also limit grants to a smaller geographic area. To qualify for Ryan White CARE Council funds (which account for 18 percent of the AEF's income), the AEF is required to serve only San Francisco, Marin, Alameda and San Mateo counties. Theoretically, the AEF could cease making grants to clients in Sonoma, Solano, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Napa, and Contra Costa counties.

The problem with that idea, said Berthelsen, is "a lot of people in [those] other counties are depending on our services."

The stickiest proposal presented to the audience was a revenue-enhancing (rather than cost-cut-

ting) idea: to hire a full-time professional fundraiser for AEF. "But that impacts our 90/10 ratio in a big way immediately," said Berthelsen. "So that's a very controversial topic to talk about."

Reaction to these and other ideas from the audience ranged widely, with people suggesting stepped-up efforts to secure corporate sponsorships; special fundraising previews of visiting Broadway musicals; and megavents such as "walkathons".

Heated exchange

The only heated exchange came when San Francisco's current Leather Daddy, Philip Turner, objected to AEF's apparent drift away from the City's leather community, especially in serving outlying counties. The AEF was

founded by members of the leather community, he said, but now he felt it was slighting that group. As a consequence, he added, all his personal fundraising efforts at the Eagle and other bars and venues will go toward some other AIDS service organization.

Members of the leather community at the town meeting, including several on the current AEF board, denied that the AEF was in any way dismissing or ignoring those who founded and continue to be a vital part of the agency.

On a more positive note, drag queen Peter (Suzy) Wong said that the best way for the AEF to raise funds was by different communities cooperating with each other. "The Court system has done a lot for the AEF and other causes," said

Wong. "I can raise \$400 to \$500 in one afternoon in one bar." Wong then challenged members of the leather community and others to try to do likewise. ▼

Meetings of the AIDS Emergency Fund board of directors take place on the second Tuesday of each month and are open to the public. Anyone may join without seeking advance permission. Currently the AEF is seeking candidates to replace six board members whose terms will soon expire. Those interested in serving are invited to contact AEF President Ken Turner at 1540 Market St., Suite 320, San Francisco CA 94102; phone (415) 558-6999.

AIDS grants

◀ page 24

and opportunities for people with HIV to build job skills through volunteer work.

Another East Bay agency receiving assistance from the annual fundraiser was Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Disease, which received a \$15,000 grant to help support a peer advocate position to provide women with information and referrals and support.

The Central YMCA received \$5,000 to provide scholarships for gym memberships to low-income clients with HIV disease. Other groups receiving support included Home Care Companions, which received a \$5,000 grant, Healing Alternatives Foundation, Larkin Street Youth Center, the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, and the Black Coalition on AIDS, the Marin AIDS Project, the Monterey County AIDS Project,

and San Mateo AIDS Community Research Consortium.

Red Hot fair Queens Collide

On World AIDS Day in New York City, the eight-year-old Red Hot Organization announced it had awarded grant recipients more than \$450,000 in funds from the sale of previously released Red Hot albums, including *Red Hot+Dance* and *No Alternative*.

San Francisco's acclaimed Project Inform received assistance from the Red Hot Foundation to underwrite its women's advocacy program and to help fund treatment education for HIV-positive women around the country.

The group gave \$100,000 to Nashville CARES to develop a model AIDS service program that collaborated with faith-based organizations in rural communities which lack AIDS-related services.

Other Red Hot grant recipients included the American Founda-

tion For AIDS Research, the National Minority AIDS Council, and DEVO, an innovative Australian program that provides AIDS prevention education and outreach in prisons.

Locally, several AIDS, Castro neighborhood, and lesbian and gay community service groups received \$23,000 in grants from gate donations at the annual Castro Street Fair, held the first Sunday in October.

Community United Against Violence, the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, Gay Young Spirit, Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church, the Stop AIDS Project, Lesbian and Gay Chorus of San Francisco, Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, the Imperial Council of San Francisco, and other groups received \$1,784.92 from the gate proceeds. Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center and the AIDS Health Project both received \$892.46 in contributions.

And finally, "When Queens

Collide," the Highbrow Society's October 18 event, raised more than \$3,300 for AIDS Benefits Counselors, BAY Positives, and the Eureka Valley Recreation Center.

The fabulous MDTV video production of the outrageous party — replete with queens in glamorous atomic attire — will be shown on public access Channel 53 this Saturday, December 13 at 1 p.m.; this Wednesday, December 17, at 11 p.m.; and on Saturday, December 27 at 10 p.m. ▼

For more information about the Castro Street Fair, call (415) 467-3354; for information about the High Brow Society, contact Michael Wulford at (415) 864-2132; for information about Macy's Passport, contact Merle Goldstone or Shelley Seldom at (415) 393-5455; for information about the Red Hot Organization, contact Brian Hanna at (212) 343-0043.

COMMUNITY HEALTH LISTINGS

Send health resource listings to:

Roberto Friedman
Community Health
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

ACT UP/Golden Gate
Self-empowerment for AIDS treatment options. Gen'l mtgs. Tues., 7:30pm; treatment issues every other Thurs., 7:30pm. 592 Castro. 252-9200.

ACT UP/SF
Does not accept drug company donations, committed to direct action. Contact: 1388 Haight, #218, SF 94117. 522-2907.

Acupuncture
The Community Acupuncture Project offers free acupuncture Wed., 9-11:30am, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut. 282-9603.

ADD Support Group
Informal support group for gays and lesbians with Attention Deficit Disorder. Call Chuck, 282-7983.

AIDS Benefits Counselors
Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV+. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral, call 558-9845.

AIDS Bereavement Group
For those who have lost their partner to AIDS. Thursdays, 6-7:30pm. Registration and info: 750-6800 x21860.

AIDS Community Research Consortium
Conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia CARE Unit
At St. Mary's Medical Center seeks volunteers to visit patients with HIV-related cognitive impairments. Call Stephan Ouellette, MSW, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund
Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project
Support groups for caregivers, friends & lovers of those with HIV/AIDS; women only, and mixed groups; free. Info: Mike, 502-6101.

AIDS/HIV Nightline
Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel
Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems, incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Memorial Grove
Monthly workdays: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS Project of the East Bay
HIV education & prevention programs, case management, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 651 20th St., Oakland. (510) 834-8181.

AIDS-Related Vision Loss Support Group
Meets 1st & 3rd Tues., 1pm at Rose Resnick Lighthouse, 214 Van Ness. 431-1481, ext. 294 or 215.

AIDS Support Group
2+ years since diagnosis. No charge, fees paid by Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Resource Group. Thursdays, 1pm. Call Gail Winston for intake: 552-7517.

AIDS Treatment Education Network
Provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS; holistic healing and survival strategies. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project
Offers family counseling, support groups and events for families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered members. 436-9000.

ARIS
ARIS resources, information and services of Santa Clara county, drop-in support group meeting. 408-293-ARIS.

Asians & Leather
Support group for gay Asian men who identify with leather. Info: c/o Pacific Friends, PO Box 641008, or e-mail: lch@415@aol.com

Asians & Pacific Islanders with HIV
Weekly support group, activities, retreat, treatment info. API Wellness Center, 292-3400 x336.

Baker Places
Provides housing for people with AIDS who have substance abuse/mental health issues. For info or intake call 284-1740.

BAPHR
Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights offers support services to med. students, physicians. 558-9353.

Bay Positives
Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. Ongoing support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Baylands Family Circle
Non-profit group of families headed by gay, lesbian and bisexual partners, meets monthly for social. Call Tom, 858-2468.

Bereavement Groups
For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Boy + Boy
Actions which promote safe sex among young gay and bi men. Tues., 7pm at Stop AIDS Project,

201 Sanchez. 431-2ACT x80Y.

Buddhist AIDS Project
Provides info on Buddhist resources, events, and HIV alternative health services. Call 522-7473.

Cannabis Club

Allowed by court order to cultivate marijuana for medicine. Needed: old grow lights, fans, etc. 1444 Market. 621-3986.

Catholic Charities

Residential and direct HIV services include Gero House, Peter Claver Community, more. 814 Mission. 281-2100.

Center for Special Problems

Groups for people with HIV: drop-in for women, women's therapy group, co-ed drop-in and psycho-educational group. 1700 Jackson. Call for info: 292-1500.

CHANGES Project

(A Coping Skills Program), UCSF research project: ways to deal with stress of HIV epidemic. HIV+ gay men call: 597-9169.

Chemically Sensitive & HIV

Support group for those allergic to perfumes and chemicals. 922-1348.

Clinica Esperanza

The HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fee. 431-3212.

Coming out support group for women

Meets Weds., 7:30-9pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market. All women questioning their sexuality welcome. Info: Lyne, 626-7000.

Coming out support group for men

Meets Weds., 7:30-9pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market. St. Men of all ages welcome. Facilitated by Kirk Hinman, PhD. Info: 626-7000.

Community United Against Violence

Begins training Volunteer Counselors on their 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500.

Connections

Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color, free. Call 356-8114.

Continuum HIV Day Services

An adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Medical services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

Counseling Services for Drinking Drivers

Groups for gay men who are court- or DMV-mandated to attend a multiple offender program. Chemical Awareness & Treatment Services: 241-1187.

Crystal Meth Anonymous

Meetings every: Wed., 8pm at 18th St. Services Mkt. Place (15th & Market); Sat., 9pm, and Sun., 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Davies Med. Center

Free classes for HIV+ people in needlepoint (Tues., Wed.), exercise (Tues., Thurs.), stress reduction (Mon.), Castro at Duboce. Info: 565-6369.

Diabetics

Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type I and Type II diabetics in SF and the Bay Area. Info: (510) 865-2933.

Dolores Street Comm. Services

Seeks volunteers to help homeless in shelters. Contact David Rodriguez, 282-6209.

Drug Detox Program

Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling and education, free. Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, 529 Clayton. Call Hector, 565-1909.

East Bay HIV/AIDS 12 Step Support Group

Ongoing. Open to all with HIV who have experience with any 12 step program. Mon. eves., 6-15pm. Info: Paul (510) 465-4311.

Eden I & R

Information & referral for AIDS/affordable housing, HIV service providers in Alameda Co. (510) 537-2600.

Ellipse-Peninsula AIDS Services

Support group, emotional & practical buddy program, food program and case management for PWAs in San Mateo Co. 572-9702.

Eureka Acupuncture & Yoga Center

Offers yoga, massage, low cost acupuncture. 301 Eureka. 648-2215.

FABRIC

A support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, who has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

Filipino Task Force on AIDS

Provides prevention, education and direct care services to Filipinos and others affected by HIV/AIDS. 1540 Market, Suite 325. Info: 703-9880.

Galeemas

Service organization supporting gay and lesbian employees of Pacific Bell. Membership info: call 436-9000.

Gay Dads

Gather to talk about your kids, lovers, ex's, etc. Joel Wechsler, MFCC. Alternative Family Project. 436-9000.

Gay/Lesbian Christian Scientists

Sharing support, insight, metaphysical science. Meets 2nd Monday of month. Info: Craig, 281-0636.

Gay/Lesbian Legal Referral Service

Offers activities for players of all abilities, membership mts. monthly. Info: Donna at 282-2453 or e-mail: dmckinstry@aol.com.

Gay Male Nudists

Potluck dinners monthly, after-hours parties, movie nights. Box 14175, SF 94114. 974-9446.

Gay Men's STD/VD Clinic

Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun., 5-7pm. HIV antibody testing every Sun., 5-7pm. 2339 Duran Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

Gay Young Spirit

A new spiritual/social group for gay men in their 20s & 30s, meets alternate Tues., 7:15pm, in SF. Call 703-7181.

G40+ Club

A social group for gay/bi men 40 and over, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1997.

Glide-Goodlett

A social group for gay/bi men 40 and over, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1997.

CHANGES Project

(A Coping Skills Program), UCSF research project: ways to deal with stress of HIV epidemic. HIV+ gay men call: 597-9169.

Chemically Sensitive & HIV

Support group for those allergic to perfumes and chemicals. 922-1348.

Clinica Esperanza

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Golden Gate Flyers

Gay, lesbian and bisexual, private and professional pilots. Call for upcoming events: 995-4938.

Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics/Drug Detox

Rehabilitation and Aftercare Program, counseling and HIV education, free. 529 Clayton. Hector, 565-1909.

Healing Alternatives

Maintains public HIV/AIDS Treatment & Resource Library. Also Buyer's Club for health products, open Tues.-Sat. 1749 Market St. Info: 626-4053.

Health Support Services

For PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-9pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis B Testing

And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay & bisexual men, free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Duran Ave., Berkeley, Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0245.

Hepatitis C Helpline

Peer support for persons afflicted with Hep C. Call 834-4100.

HIV Advocacy Network

Grassroots organizing project of SF AIDS Foundation: phone/fax, tree action alerts, government lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. 487-3034.

HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Program

Behavioral change program for gay & bi men, focus on sex injection & unsafe sex behaviors. Free. Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, 1696 Haight, 7000 x199, 1853 Market St.

HIV/AIDS Services at New Leaf

Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV+ men with AIDS, partners and survivors. For information/call, Jill, 626-7090 x199, 1853 Market St.

HIV Care

Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments, free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 535-6215.

HIV Drop-In Groups

Co-ed for people with HIV, Wed., 8pm. Women with HIV, Tues., 10am. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

HIV Negative Support Group

For gay and bisexual men offered by AIDS Health Project; free drop-in, time-limited and ongoing support groups. Info: 476-3902.

HIV Nutrition Support/Group

Ongoing monthly meetings at city clinics, call for info: CARE Program Nutritionists, 554-9121.

HIV Positive Drop-in Group

Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka.

863-4434.

HIV Positive Youth Group

18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. Info: Pat Duffy, 408-293-2747.

HIV Testing

Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Home Care Companies

Free classes for PWA's, their families, friends & loved ones: 'New AIDS Drugs: What Every Patient & Caregiver Should Know,' more. 1675 California. 824-3269.

Housing and Client Assistance Program for PWAs

Provides emergency and financial help to residents of San Mateo Co. Mental Health Assn. of San Mateo Co.: 368-9989.

Immune Enhancement Project

Treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Iris Center

Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Instiuto Laboral de Raza

Helps low income and unemployed workers with labor issues, union organizing, family support. 431-7522.

Jewish Family and Children's Services AIDS Project

Counseling, support groups, case management, more for Jewish people with HIV and their loved ones. 561-1241.

Latina Hospital AIDS Unit

Provides compassionate care to PWAs who are SF residents in need of 24-hour nursing care. Call 664-1580.

Lambda Youth and Family Program

Provides support to gay youth in their 20s & 30s.

Legal Services AIDS Project

Counseling, support groups, case management, more for Marin Co. residents w/HIV. 535 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo. 456-8063.

movie nights. Box 14175, SF 94114. 974-9446.

626-7090.

Laura Honda Hospital AIDS Unit

Provides compassionate care to PWAs who are SF residents in need of 24-hour nursing care. Call 664-1580.

Lambda Youth and Family Program

Provides support to gay youth in their 20s & 30s.

Legal Services for Children's H.O.P.E. Project

Provides social and legal services to low-income HIV affected families. Info: 863-3762.

Lesbian Social Group

For lesbians and bisexual women in Tri-Cities/San Mateo Co. Thurs. 7pm at The Edge, 3916 Fremont St., Fremont. 700-2887.

Lesbian Support Groups

On mental health issues: peer counseling, support and referrals for SF residents. Call Connie, 552-0788.

Linas de Ambiente

Information, referral and emotional support for gay, lesbian and bisexual, private and professional clients.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center

Quality, affordable, non-judgmental medical care provided by women for women. Special outreach to lesbian and bisexual women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

LYRIC's After School

Drop-in for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, 18 and under. Daily. 3-6pm, M-F. 123 Collingwood, 703-6150.

Marin Co. STD/HIV Clinics

STD testing, treatment; HIV anonymous testing, treatment. Call 499-7804.

Martin De Porres House of Hospitality

Needs volunteers to work in soup kitchen, break-fast and lunch. 225 Potrero. 565-0240.

MCC Chronic/Life-Threatening Support Group

Every Wed., 1-3pm, at MCC, 150 Eureka St. Free, drop-in. Call 863-4434.

Meditation Sessions

For caregivers, people with HIV, significant others, free. Tues., Thurs., Fri. at 10:15am. Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. 863-2507.

Men Overcoming Sexual Assault

Operates sexual assault hotline for men, Mon.-Fri., 10pm-11pm. Call 863-4727.

Mobilization Against AIDS

Seeks volunteers to assist in planning 15th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. Call 863-4676.

Molested Boys

"Wounded Men, Recovery from Sexual Abuse" free audiotape. Call 552-4270.

Mother Organizing Mothers

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The Greenhouse
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2/BED/2BATH CONDO
POPULAR COMPLEX
ONLY \$79,500
CALL DAN BELAIR
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E51

PRESIDIO HTS
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Light spacious condo \$284,500
1BR+office/den Coldwell Banker Anne Thomson 447-8864

E50

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 218753

The following person(s) are doing business as Glass Plus Inc, 375 Potrero Ave, Suite 1, San Francisco, CA 94103; Michael C. Connolly, 375 Potrero Ave, Suite 1, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above fictitious business name or names on the date of November 12, 1997. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Michael C. Connolly. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 12, 1997.

Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 218733

The following person(s) are doing business as Market Street Club, 2340 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; James D. Green, 1850 Union St. #1379, San Francisco, CA 94120. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed James A. Green. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 12, 1997.

Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 218711

The following person(s) are doing business as Mike The Gardener, 1062 Oak St, San Francisco, CA 94117; Michael S. Roche, 1062 Oak St, San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above fictitious business name or names on the date of November 10, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Michael S. Roche. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 10, 1997.

Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FILE NO. 218979

The following person(s) are doing business as Propaganda, 450 Ninth St, San Francisco, CA 94103; The London Antique, 450 Ninth St, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced to transact busi-

ness under the above fictitious business name or names on the date of April 1, 1997. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Tyremann. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 991163

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of Judith Lynn Samuels for change of name. The application of Judith Lynn Samuels for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Judith Lynn Samuels has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Judith Samuels Kahn. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 22nd day of December, 1997, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated the 18th day of November, 1997.

Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 1997.

AUDITIONS

AFRICAN AMERICAN
TENORS

Professional Gay A Cappella quintet seeks a CounterTenor/Tenor (with easy falsetto, gospel sensibility). Musical experience, commitment required. Sight reading a plus! For audition, contact: Aurelio 415-252-1154

E50

Softball Players needed for new team-travel-uniforms-fun 826-6858

E50

Handyman
FT M-F must have basic knowledge of electrical/plumbing/painting, etc

Steamworks 2107 4th St
Berkeley, CA 510-845-8995

E51

Need assistant for Upper Market loc
CA COSMETOLIST LIC
req. No clientele needed 621-7947

E50

OPENENTERPRISES/GOOD
VIBRATIONS SEEKS
GENERAL MANAGER

Looking for exp in financial mgmt strategic/long range planning, marketing, leadership. Must have 2 yrs bus mgmt exp able to coord multi-site bus. MBA is +, comfort w/sexuality essential. Altern bus & democratic mgmt. exp pref'd. exc benefits \$16-10-20.28/hr OE/GM DDES not dis-

crim. on the basis of race, ethnic, phys. ability, gender sex orient. Apply in person @ 938 Howard St #101 SF. No calls pls.

E50

Classy retro/collectibles shop w/fun atmosphere needs 3 energetic people w/drive for excellence Sales mgr, PT now, FT soon. \$8/hr after short training period. PT sales/stock person, Sat & some afternoons. PT handyman 2 afternoons, varied work \$6 hr w/rapid raises.

415-777-7774

E50

For question about it.

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The Meeting of Europe & the Caribbean

Primarily Gay & Lesbian. 40 unit complex of former Spanish style homes in a beautiful courtyard setting directly on the beach, walking distance to all the action.

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Nathan Detroit, Sky Masterson, and Sarah Brown live again in the Joe Sent Me Club production of 'Guys and Dolls.'
page 51

A gem of the Japanese cinema, 'The Life of Oharu,' plays the Roxie.
page 38



Showqueens' flair for the irreverent becomes art in filthy 'Showtunes.'
page 37



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

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The mother of all mothers

HIGH CAMP AND HORROR WITH 'MOMMIE DEAREST'

by John Blanco

It's obvious that Paramount knew they had a camp classic on their hands with *Mommie Dearest* from almost the moment the film was released. While initial ads for the 1981 movie featured the low-key copy, "The story of a star ... a legend ... and a mother... As only a daughter could tell it," the studio quickly changed its advertising strategy when it realized that it was the campy elements of the film that were drawing the crowds. New ads were quickly released which read, "No wire hangers...Ever! *Mommie Dearest*...The biggest mother of them all!" When the film's producer Frank Yablans saw the new ads, he was upset enough to file a lawsuit against Paramount, and the sensationalistic advertisements were eventually pulled.

It's hard to understand why Yablans would object to Paramount's attempts to capitalize on what was essentially the key to the film's success. After all, Christina Crawford's description of the physical and emotional abuse meted out by her movie star mom Joan Crawford in *Mommie Dearest*, the 1978 memoir upon which the movie is based, is so horrifying that it's hard to imagine the movie working as anything but camp. Explicitly played-out scenes of child abuse that came off as dramatic and true would be too hard to watch and could have easily seemed exploitative. But the scenes of violence in the

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I remember Mama

CHRISTINA CRAWFORD HAS NO REGRETS

by John Blanco



Tickets are still available for Marc Huestis' "Christmas with Christina Crawford" on Saturday, December 20 (the 19th is sold out). But you can attend both nights for free if you sign up to be a part of the glamorous "Cavalcade of the Christmas Crawfords," a procession of Joan Crawford look- and dress-alikes that will take over the Castro Theatre stage both nights. The cavalcade will culminate in a Christmas grab bag that will see one lucky queen walk away with a \$100 check. For more information, call 863-0611 before December 18.

She was called a liar and an opportunist for writing the semi-nal 1978 tell-all *Mommie Dearest*, a book which detailed her traumatic childhood as the abused scion of movie legend Joan Crawford. She then saw her life not portrayed so much as parodied on screen when *Mommie Dearest* was filmed in 1981. She subsequently weathered ill health, including a stroke in 1981, and failed marriages. And yet, remarkably, Christina Crawford has managed to maintain a sense of humor about the often tumultuous course of her life.

The 58-year-old Crawford laughed heartily and often during a recent phone interview from the Idaho farm she's lived on for the past five years. Maybe it's tranquil farm living, or perhaps years of psychotherapy, but it's obvious that Crawford has finally found some peace in her life. During the interview, she was willing to speak openly about everything from the controversy that surrounded the publication of her landmark autobiography to the unprofessional antics of Faye Dunaway on the set of *Mommie Dearest*. But it's clear that Crawford is most excited to discuss the new, expanded edition of the book, copies of which she will sign at *Christmas with Christina Crawford* next Friday and Saturday nights at the Castro Theatre.

B.A.R.: How did the idea of publishing this new edition of *Mommie Dearest* come about?

Christina Crawford: Well, it's the 20th anniversary. I thought now would be a good time to publish the original manuscript, which is much longer than the edition published in 1978. Also, there's a whole generation that hasn't read the book because it isn't

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OUT THERE

by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

A n acquaintance who toils at an antique shop in the Cow Hollow area called the other day to tell us an exquisitely funny tale about our fave actress, **Faye Dunaway**. Seems when Joan — er, Faye — was here doing *Master Class*, she made regular visits to several thrift stores and antique shops in the area. While you'd think shopkeepers would be thrilled to see someone of Dunaway's wealth and status entering their premises, merchants along Union Street say her regular visits were a nightmare. "She was horrible," said one outraged antique dealer, "bitchy and mean."

She came waltzing in here and asked, "Do you have anything better than this?"

Faye also burst bubbles at several VIP parties thrown in her honor during the run of *MC*. Just so happens that a good friend of ours attended one of these functions, and he tells us that Faye was very kindly giving autographs to all who asked, only when he put his dog-eared copy of *Mommie Dearest* in front of the actress' nose, she very nearly went postal: "She got all red in the face and said, 'I'll have nothing to do with that!'" Is it any wonder why?

Could it be that it all hits just a little too close to home? Film critic **Pauline Kael** got it right when she wrote of Dunaway's performance in *Mommie Dearest*: "Dunaway is startling, ferocious. It's deeper than an impersonation; she turns herself into **Joan Crawford**, all right, but she's more Faye Dunaway than ever."

Free Willie — please!

God, **Mayor Brown** just amazes us. How does he find time to do all that he does? On any given day he's balancing important policy decisions, going to social engagements, and delivering impromptu diatribes to the press about uncivilized sports stars. Recently, he even found time in his busy schedule to wreck an AIDS memorial service.

That's right, according to a chum who attended the World AIDS Day Interfaith Service at Grace Cathedral two Mondays ago, Mayor Brown decided he just couldn't wait any longer to deliver his speech and proceeded to skip ahead of the other scheduled speakers.

Grabbing the limelight is one thing, but doing it at the worst possible moment, as Brown did, merely serves to underscore the increasingly obvious fact that a successful politician needn't be very bright. Indeed, it's doubtful that Willie was aware of it, but he chose to deliver his talk at the very point in the service normally given over to the tolling of bells and the calling out of the names of the dead. Although people were quick to figure out that something had gone dreadfully wrong and didn't call out names, the bells tolled as planned, their doleful sound lost on the orotund blather of HRH. Undoubtedly the Mighty One thought their lovely pealing was a tribute to him, though a close look at the long faces on all in attendance would have been evidence enough that he'd ruined the formality and ritual of this solemn occasion.

Indeed, two elderly women who turned up for the service could be heard mumbling afterward that "they should have just yanked him off the stage." Alas, **Frank Jordan**

aside, getting rid of politicians has never been that easy.

Lauren lives

Last week we told you that all the old habitués of the '70s night-club Studio 54 — at least those who are still alive and kicking — are trying to finagle cameo appearances in Miramax's forthcoming flick about the notorious New York hot spot. Well, we've

learned from the well-connected **Oily Avian One** that the good folks at Miramax didn't care much about dusting off **Lorna Luft** or **Cornelia Guest**, but apparently **Lauren Hutton** is important enough to warrant a real live appearance in the flick, which also stars **Mike Myers** (as **Steve Rubell**), **Salma Hayek**, **Ryan Phillippe**, **Neve Campbell**, and newcomer **Breckin Meyer**. (No word yet on whether or not **Liza** will be wheeled before the cameras.)

Though the folks at Miramax were hush-hush about who is playing 54 regular **Andy Warhol**, they did say it wouldn't be **David Bowie**, who played the Wigged One last year in **Julian Schnabel's** *Basquiat*. More on this later.



Richard Avedon

Truman Capote

Dancing dungeon queen

Speaking of Studio 54, **George Plimpton's** new biography of dead megadeen **Truman Capote** (*Truman Capote: In Which Various Friends, Enemies, Acquaintances, and Detractors Recall His Turbulent Career*, Doubleday, \$35) makes clear Capote's fondness for the infamous club, where he'd go almost nightly in the late '70s to drink, dance, take all sorts of funny pills, and do unmentionable things downstairs in the mysterious "VIP room."

Gossip queen **Liz Smith** is quoted at length in the tome about Tru's behavior at the club:

"I'm sure glad I wasn't hip enough or attractive enough or young enough to be invited to the downstairs [VIP] room at Studio 54, because everybody who ever went down there is dead. Lots of drugs and needles. Truman was really in the thick of it."

Anthony Haden-Guest, who wrote a dry book about Studio 54 last year, is quoted as saying that the VIP room was "dingy, like all basements, lots of little cubicles, diseased-looking banquets, a lot of disused props. I remember mattresses everywhere where people like Truman would go." Wonder how much of this will end up in the Miramax pic.

On the defensive

Sounds of intense laughter could be heard emanating from a San Francisco screening room the other day, only the source of the laughter wasn't a film per se, it was merely a preview, a teaser for **Kevin Costner's** new flick *The Postman*. Though we thought all the mirth must mean the film is a comedy, in actuality *The Postman* is a futuristic "drama" about a post-apocalypse America in which Costner saves the day against an evil brooding general whose bloody reign of terror has destroyed the country's infrastructure, reducing the population to a motley group of warring villages. Yawn. Chalk up another box-office bomb for Kev.

In other Costner news, the hunky actor continues to stand by his word that **Princess Diana** had met with him last year to negotiate a deal for her to star in a sequel to his hit flick *The Bodyguard*. Although Costner has talked about the negotiations openly on television and in *Premiere* magazine, Kensington Palace denies there were any plans for Diana to star in this or any film.

"It happened," Costner told Access Hollywood TV. "I think they should be careful what they say when they challenge me on this. I and my entire office were quiet about it for over a year, but it did happen."

Father knows best

Just who is **Alison Eastwood**? Well, in the suspect prose of several hundred desperate journalists, she is by turns "awesome," "a temptress for the ages," "a glamorous sphinx," "Marilyn-like," and, our favorite, "a chip off her father's block," which presumably means that her father, **Clint Eastwood**, is a piece of wood.

Yes, even though we've read at least 300 interviews with Alison Eastwood since her appearance in Daddy's new film *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, we don't feel we've actually met the real Alison. In one piece, however, we could see the forest through the trees. Halfway through *W's* recent

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Trials and errors

'Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde'

by Richard Dodds

If reality is a collective hunch, then maybe history is little more than a collective mood. The steam has certainly gone out of Columbus Day, and George Washington's name is being chiseled from the fronts of public schools. For Oscar Wilde, history — thank God — has been equally fickle.

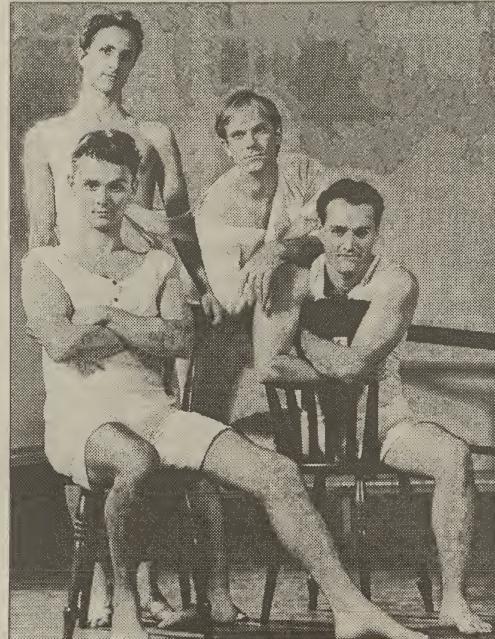
The sheer subjectivity of what we call history is one of the many fascinating components of *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*. Moises Kaufman, the playwright-director of the New York stage hit now at Theatre on the Square, invokes numerous sources and devices to depict the downfall of the 19th-century philosopher-playwright, but there is no suggestion of a definitive portrait. Indeed, whenever one of the stone-faced narrator-judges holds up an open book indicating from where the words (and interpretation) of a particular scene derive, it is with an almost accusatory thrust. I am showing you the words in black and white, he seems to be saying, but they could just as well be ants on a page.

Providing the framework for Kaufman's inventive investigation are the less slippery facts of the case, namely that Wilde, at the height of his fame, sued the father of his young lover for libel after being publicly accused of posing

as a sodomite; and that while the defense tried to prove Wilde's innocence by quoting from his writings, the plaintiff doomed himself with a slip of his clever tongue. Wilde was then charged with gross indecency, which, two trials later, sealed his ruin.

"A dose of wholesome bigotry is better than over toleration," wrote a newspaper of the day, one of the more tempered of the gleeful accounts of the guilty verdict that Kaufman includes in his powerful collage. Wilde's plays were quickly withdrawn from the stage, contributing to his total financial collapse. But we also hear that within 20 years of his death, he was, after Shakespeare, the most produced English-language playwright in Britain. The law that sent Wilde to prison for two years, however, stayed on the books for another 50 years after the trials.

The playwright puts into context for contemporary audiences just how alien the concept of defining self in terms of sexual orientation was at the time. Contemporary voices are heard commenting on this subject, but so too are George Bernard Shaw's and even Queen Victoria's. As much as we may wish Wilde had acknowledged the obvious, that he unashamedly preferred the company of men, it was not in the vocabulary of his times. Thanks to the trial, it became so, quietly beginning a revolution that is still



James Asher, Gregory Ivan Smith, Sheffield Chastain, Jonathan Haugen in *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*.

being played out today.

It is testimony to Kaufman's talent that the numerous threads in the piece are so effectively and

entertainingly woven together. The production's sparseness becomes an asset, through an imaginative elaboration that draws the

audience into the process. Kaufman is also working with an exemplary cast drawn mainly from San Francisco, but highlighted by a fascinating performance from Michael Emerson, who has recreated his acclaimed portrait of Wilde from the New York production.

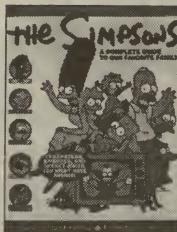
The slightly built, wide-eyed Emerson does not attempt a full-out impersonation of the imposing Wilde as much as an ethereal impression of a man who has been plucked from his time and made to relive his trials. Even in the early scenes, when Wilde is still filled with confidence and witty retorts, Emerson conveys a foreboding in a performance of unpredictable nuances. His scenes after Wilde's ruin possess a restraint that actually magnifies the tragedy.

Gross Indecency is a play about a century-old court case, but it is also a play about today. Art is still being put on trial, the press still glorifies and crucifies with abandon, and while the love that dares not speak its name has found a voice, it would still be silenced by many in powerful positions. Oscar Wilde may be history, but his tragedy lingers. ▼

Tickets (\$25-\$39) for *Gross Indecency* are on sale through January 4 at the Theatre on the Square box office (433-9500) and at BASS outlets.



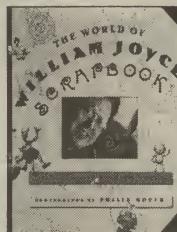
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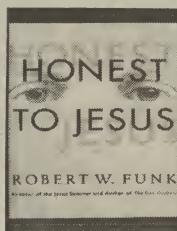
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Play it again, Queen

'Dirty Little Showtunes' returns to form

by Jef Valentine

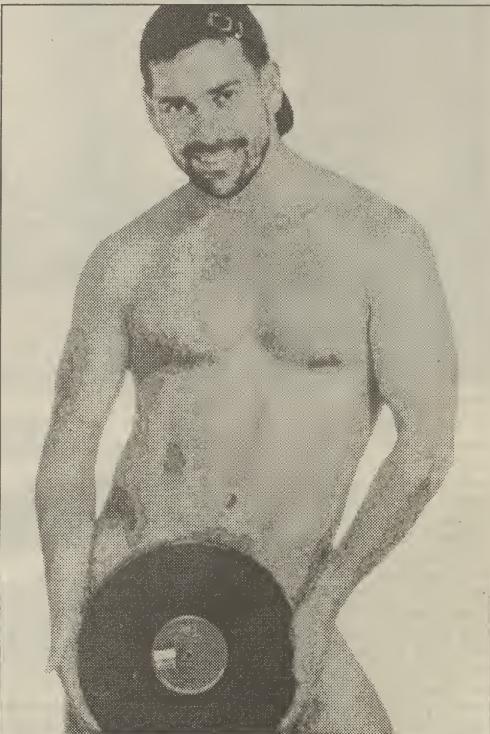
You're either a showtune person or you're not. If you're not, then *Dirty Little Showtunes* is going to leave you sitting on the outside of an inside joke. However, if you are in touch with your show queen, you're going to be howling along with the rest of the audience as parodist/performer Tom Orr and his talented cast of five drag their cleverly rewritten show through the gayest of all possible gutters.

It's a foolproof device that filters every imaginable gay experience through our shared musical comedy references, and to Orr's credit, the show manages to illuminate the truths as well as the ridiculousness behind gay stereotypes. Turning "The Telephone Hour" from *Bye Bye, Birdie* into an ode to phone sex presumably aims for the crotch, but it's so witty your intelligence doesn't have to go on hiatus while you revel in the potty humor; you get both.

"At the Ballet," from *A Chorus Line*, becomes "At the Bathhouse" and allows the actors to assume three-dimensional characters while singing a smutty joke.

The cast doesn't have a weak link, and each solo number seems tailor-made to its performer. Birdie-Bob Watt warbles like his namesake in "Somewhat OVER the Rainbow," a plea not to reduce ourselves to merchandising symbols, rainbow mugs, pink triangles, beach towels, etc. Later, when he mugs and belts his way through a song about drag queen spunk, it seems wise that there's no scenery — if there were, Watt would have to floss his teeth.

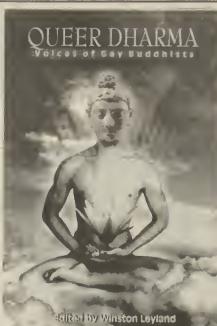
Randy Wendelin scores big as a Hercules who's all girleen, and David Bicha will test your threshold for pizazz. The cast is rounded out with sharp turns from Arturo Galster and Eric Brizee, with the ivories being ably tickled by Scrumbly Koldewyn. Then, of course, there's Orr. Grinning sheepishly under his beard and harness, he's both wicked and too cute. And not that we care, but he also has the Body of Death.



Dirty Little Showtunes' Tom Orr.

This is *Showtunes*' third incarnation in San Francisco, and productions of the show have been mounted in other cities, including Seattle and Chicago. Under the direction of Allen Sawyer and John F. Karr, there's no lab in the evening. The show is offered with a plucky sincerity and obsessive thoroughness that is recognized as second nature to a true show queen. So, if you know the difference between a soundtrack and a cast album, just indulge your inner-Dreamgirl and go. ▼

Dirty Little Showtunes continues through February 1 at the New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Avenue.



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Desperate living

Kenji Mizoguchi's 'The Life of Oharu'

by Gary Morris

The first time I went to see Mizoguchi's *The Life of Oharu*, I asked a friend who was familiar with the film to come with me. Although a self-proclaimed "Mizoguchi freak," he demurred, saying somewhat ominously, "Nobody suffers like Oharu!" After watching the film, I could see why he didn't want to go. *Oharu* (1952) is a tragedy without peer; it's 137 minutes of almost unrelieved grimness, made unsettlingly real by the director's ravishing pictorialism and above all by the performance of Kinuyo Tanaka as a woman who goes from being a respected member of the Imperial Japanese Court to a broken-down whore and beggar ravaged by disease.

According to his longtime screenwriter Yoshikata Yoda, Mizoguchi made *Oharu* as a reaction to Kurosawa's triumph with *Rashomon* at the Venice Film Festival a year earlier. But the production must have been inevitable given Mizoguchi's fascination with Japanese history, his near-obsession with the plight of women, and the neat dovetailing of these two elements in the popular 17th-century novel on which the film is based. (In fact, the director had the project in mind at least two years earlier, when he left Shochiku Studios after they refused to finance this project.)

Told in the form of a flashback,

the film opens with a burned-out *Oharu*, at age 50, in a Buddhist temple, where she imagines the face of her lover of years earlier, Katsunosuke (a fetching young Toshiro Mifune). Mizoguchi quickly plunges us into the heart of the drama: suddenly it's 30 years earlier, and a young, beautiful *Oharu* is being courted by a man she dismissively calls "a mere page" — Katsunosuke. Pledged to one of the lords, she nonetheless goes off with Katsunosuke when she realizes his love is sincere. The two are discovered and ruthlessly punished: he is beheaded, and she and her family are exiled.

Oharu's refusal to live outside her own moral code, her inability to compromise by following feudal customs that demand total submission from women, is her undoing from the start, and as she becomes more resolute in her beliefs, her position in society declines. After attempting suicide, she is sold by her father to a powerful clan and bears their leader a son. The leader's jealous wife has her exiled again. From there she becomes a courtesan, where her lack of enthusiasm for a client's money triggers her dismissal. Then she's adopted by a merchant and his family, but in spite of her kindness to them, she's assaulted by both. Next, she marries a good man, a fan maker who is murdered shortly thereafter. Seeking refuge in a convent, she's accosted by the merchant, forced into sex,



Kinuyo Tanaka in Kenji Mizoguchi's *The Life of Oharu*.

then discovered and cast out. She winds up in one of the director's most favored cinematic environments: a whorehouse.

Mizoguchi's familiarity with such places through extensive personal patronage is well known, and goes far in explaining his ability to detail the lives of one of Japan's most cast-off classes. It's only from the other prostitutes that *Oharu* can gain some measure of sympathy and understanding. Because they live outside the social strictures of feudalism, and lack any kind of material or personal power, they can afford to be generous. But *Oharu*'s degrada-

tion continues when a trick hires the now-decrepit whore; he turns out to be a pilgrim who brings her to a group of acolytes for the purpose of ridicule and moral instruction. He refers to her as "the witch" and points her out as the inevitable result of a life of sin.

Oharu's status as a helpless submissive to a malevolent world of men is everywhere evident in this film, but perhaps most subtly symbolized during an entertainment in which a small *Oharu*-like hand puppet is manipulated and made to "act" for the amusement of the audience. Still, *Oharu* tries to assert her humanity and dignity throughout. Especially powerful in this regard is a sequence wherein she is allowed to view a young lord who, it turns out, is really her son, the product of her assignation years earlier with a clan leader. She breaks away from the men who stand between her and her son, an action which causes them to briefly rear back in awe. "I gave him life!" she exclaims. But her triumph is only temporary, as her son passes in-

differently before her eyes and disappears into the night. Mizoguchi shoots this and other such sequences in a kind of discreet, distancing style, with mostly long and medium shots and very few close-ups. This strategy builds to devastating emotional effect, with *Oharu* appearing most often in a posture of physical or spiritual compromise — a small figure dwarfed by the surrounding landscape, her back to the camera or her face otherwise hidden, her body prone or prostrate, as if brought low by the suffocating grid of life.

The Life of Oharu was not a commercial success in Japan at the time of its release. But worldwide audiences responded much more positively. Mizoguchi won the best director award at Venice, and the film is now rightly ranked as one of the cinema's greatest achievements. ▼

The Life of Oharu plays December 12-18 at the Roxie Cinema.

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J.C. superstar

The Crawford legend lives on

by Tavo Amador

The most striking fact about Joan Crawford's film career was its durability. In a business where the odds against making it at all are high, the odds against surviving on top for decades are astronomical. Yet Crawford was in films for 45 years, and a star for 42 of them. She worked in silents for Tod Browning opposite Lon Chaney (*The Unknown*) as early as 1927 and starred in Steven Spielberg's directorial debut on Rod Serling's *Night Gallery* as late as 1969. Her collection of leading men is unequalled, ranging from Ramon Novarro and John Gilbert in the '20s to Gary Cooper, Clark Gable (eight times, and she was always top-billed), Fred Astaire (his first screen dance partner), John and Lionel Barrymore, William Powell, Robert Taylor, James Stewart and Spencer Tracy in the '30s, Henry Fonda, John Wayne and John Garfield in the '40s, to Cliff Robertson and Jack Palance in the '50s.

Crawford's durability is astonishing because neither contemporary critics nor film historians thought much of her talent. But the public — especially women — loved the glamorous image she created. Of all the great female stars, only Katharine Hepburn had a longer career, but she has made far fewer films than Crawford and, after the early '30s, has had little box-office clout. Barbara Stanwyck's career began in 1927, but by the mid-60s had run its course. Bette Davis, who started in films in 1932 (when Crawford was third among box-office stars) continued working into the 1980s, but generally in supporting parts in minor films or on television.

Crawford started as an ingenue in silents in 1925. She became a star in *Our Dancing*



An early portrait of Joan Crawford

Daughters (1928), giving a performance that defined the American flapper. (F. Scott Fitzgerald called her the best example of flaming youth.) In this period and into the early '30s, Crawford looked in, in Pauline Kael's memorable phrase, "sexed to the gills."

Talkies revealed a warm contralto voice, and she quickly became MGM's biggest female box-office star, entering the top ten in 1930 and staying there through 1936. Crawford's popularity was such that the studio rarely wasted good material on her. (Studio rivals Norma Shearer and Greta Garbo got better scripts.)

At MGM, Crawford often played women of humble origins who eventually attained success, virtuously or not. One of her best efforts is *Possessed* (1931), playing mistress to Clark Gable's rising politician. Her beauty is riveting and her acting effective. She was the very essence of sex appeal in *Grand Hotel* (1932), as the whore-stenographer, and she actually stole the film from under Garbo and both Barrymores. Her Sadie Thompson in *Rain* (1932) was a critical and box-office flop, although today her intensity in the film is mesmerizing. *Dancing Lady* (1933), a wildly successful musical with Gable and Astaire, restored her popularity. (Her dancing is clunky, in the style of Ruby Keeler, but her untrained singing voice is warm.)

By the end of the '30s, however, Crawford's popularity had slipped, and she joined Mae West, Marlene Dietrich, Fred Astaire and Katharine Hepburn on the famous box-office poison list issued by exhibitors. Joan responded by playing husband-stealing Crystal Allen in MGM's *The Women* (1939), a standout performance against stiff competition (Shearer, Rosalind Russell and Mary Boland). She had only two more good movies at MGM, *Strange Cargo* (1940, her last with Gable) and George Cukor's *A Woman's Face* (1941), playing a badly scarred criminal redeemed by plastic surgery. In 1943, after 18 years at MGM, studio mogul Louis B. Mayer decided she was through and fired her.

She signed with Warner Bros., where Bette Davis reigned as queen of the lot, and waited. It took two years for her to find the right script, *Mildred Pierce* (1945). Davis, who had first refusal on all leading roles, passed, and the director, Michael Curtiz, wanted Stanwyck. Crawford once cracked, "...They held me up a goddamn long time." She was right.

film noir mystery with soap opera, was a huge hit, and for it she won her only Oscar. She followed it up with one of her most assured and glamorous performances in *Humoresque* (1946) — her last film as an unarguable beauty — playing a wealthy socialite drawn to concert violinist John Garfield. She got another Oscar nomination for *Possessed* (1947), in which she played a woman driven to murder and insanity by a faithless lover. She gave one more fine performance at Warner's, in 1950's *Harriet Craig*, based on George Kelly's "Craig's Wife," as a manipulative, house-proud bitch.

In 1952, after a series of poor films, she left Warner Bros. and did a thriller at RKO, *Sudden Fear*, an effective example of Crawford going from victim to avenger. It proved a smash, garnering a third best actress nomination and putting her back on top. Columbia offered Crawford the lead in *From Here To Eternity*, but her insistence on more screen time and glamorous outfits resulted in Deborah Kerr getting the part. (Imagine Crawford rolling on the beach with Burt Lancaster — the Battle of the Shoulders!) MGM asked her back for the poor *Torch Song* (1953), in which she plays a Merman-like musical comedy star, and the following year she went to Republic for the Western camp classic, *Johnny Guitar*. (Her shootout with black-clad Mercedes McCambridge as repressed lesbian Emma Small must be seen to be believed.)

She had one more good film in the '50s, *The Story of Esther Costello* (1957), a prescient look at mass-media evangelicals. In 1959, following the death of her fourth husband, Pepsi Cola CEO Alfred Steele, she took a cameo role as a tough editor in *The Best of Everything*, easily outshining the film's nominal stars. She stayed off the screen for three years, but was the driving force behind *Whatever Happened To Baby Jane?* (1962), her legendary teaming with Bette Davis. The film was a major success, but Davis stole the notices and got the Oscar nomination. (Crawford's contract, however, gave her a greater percentage of the movie's gross receipts, and she pointed out that her character, Blanche Hudson, was the much bigger star of the two.) At the Oscar show she gleefully accepted for absent Best Actress winner Anne Bancroft; *Time* named Crawford "the triumph of the evening." This success was her last, although she continued working until 1970, in increasingly bad films. The best of the bunch are *The Caretakers* (1963) and *Berserk* (1968), a low-camp murder melodrama in which she plays a circus ringmaster.

In the '50s, gay men joined women in making up Crawford's audience. Her gay-icon status, although never as high as Davis', reflects admiration for her tenacity as well as amusement at her operatic emoting. But Crawford's place in the Hollywood Pantheon is unassailable, and her stunning, glamorous image is enshrined in the works of great portrait photographers like George Hurrell and Clarence Bull. In discussing her famous ankle-strap shoes, Crawford once cracked, "...They held me up a goddamn long time." She was right.

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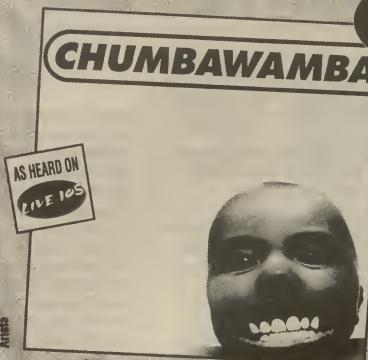
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INTERVIEW

Christina

◀ Arts cover

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What have you added to the book?

The later years of my adult relationship with my mother are covered more extensively. I think it makes the book a more complete experience, because you really do see the relationship from beginning to end. I think the reader is able to understand much better what the scope of the relationship was. I've also added a new preface that reflects some of the changes that have happened in my life in the past 20 years, as well as a new afterward on adoption reform.

Did you ever consider writing this book about your mother when she was still alive?

Well, actually, the book is about the relationship between the two of us. It's not a biography; it's an autobiography. It couldn't have been written until the relationship was concluded, and there was no way of knowing when that would be. As long as people are alive, change is possible.

You faced such controversy when the book was first published, including accusations that you lied. In the midst of all that, did you regret telling your story?

No, never. I was surprised by some of the reactions, both the viciousness of the negative reactions and the joyfulness of the positive reactions. I don't think anyone, myself included, expected the depth of the reaction to the

book. I think that is part of what made the book a classic and why it changed so many lives. It stands quite separate from the film. I know the film is a classic, too, but of a different sort [laughs].

How do you think our society has changed in the way it deals with child abuse in the 20 years since your book came out?

Certainly a tremendous number of organizations have sprung up all over the country. Some of the laws have been changed, state by state. I think that before 1978 only social workers, doctors, and hospitals dealt with the problem. A lot of people have gotten help, but

probably isn't the answer you're looking for. Well, first of all, the actress that was originally to play the lead was Anne Bancroft. If they had been able to give her a script that she could approve, that would have been the most extraordinary change. But they couldn't come up with a decent script.

How were the two scripts you wrote different from the script that was shot?

They were much closer to the book, they were accurate, historically correct, and they focused on the relationship between the two people, rather than on mother as a movie star. The book isn't about

"All of them lost control, cast and crew. Certainly Faye Dunaway lost control, and Frank Perry lost control of Faye Dunaway."

the problem is so serious. And we've never addressed what the long-term effects of a violent childhood are.

How has your own life changed in the two decades since the book was published?

Oh, it's radically different. I live on a farm. I run a bed and breakfast and a restaurant. I've chosen a very busy but very quiet and peaceful way of life.

In retrospect, what would you do differently in bringing *Mommie Dearest* to the screen?

I could answer everything, but that

is a movie star. It's about a relationship, a lifelong relationship.

You've said that as a young actress you were friends with *Mommie Dearest*'s director, Frank Perry, and that you respected him as a filmmaker. How did he let things get so out of control?

I wasn't on the set, but my feeling is that all of them lost control. Cast and crew [laughs]. Certainly Faye Dunaway lost control, but I think Frank Perry lost control of Ms. Dunaway.

You've been quoted as saying that Dunaway was constantly rewriting the script as the film was shoot-



Courtesy of Christina Crawford

Christina as a Girl Scout at the age of 10, with her mother, Joan.

ing. What kind of changes did she make?

Again, I wasn't on the set, but that's what I understand from a number of people who were there. She would just rewrite the scenes in her dressing room and on camera. So it was impossible for anyone who played opposite her, because they didn't know where the scenes were going.

The film has become one of the all-time camp classics. How do you feel about that?

Well, I think kind of an ironic thing has happened. Yes, the movie is a camp classic. Yes, it plays on television all the time. So, in some ways, for some audiences, the film is what has kept the story alive. I'm grateful for that. ▼



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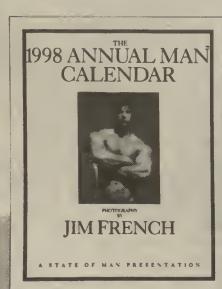
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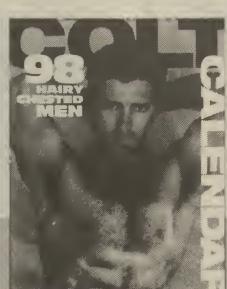
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FILM

Mommie Dearest

Arts cover

movie are so consistently awkward, unconvincing and over the top that they become perversely entertaining and riotously – if unintentionally – funny.

Like Christina Crawford's book, the Frank Perry-directed film encompasses all 36 years of the relationship between mother and daughter, from Christina's adoption to Joan's death. But unlike the book, which gave equal time to both women, the movie is definitely a star vehicle for Faye Dunaway. With Dunaway's Joan Crawford as the focus, *Mommie Dearest* becomes a standard movie star bio, albeit more lurid than most, chronicling Joan's love and career woes almost as much as it does the trajectory of her relationship with Christina.

The movie picks up with Crawford's career at a low ebb. Declared box-office poison, she's relegated to performing in duds like the Sonja Henie reject *Ice Follies of 1939*. To fill a void in her life and – as she admits to Christina late in the film – to garner some free publicity, Joan adopts a baby girl. If there were ever any kind of love or bonding between mother and daughter, we don't see it in the film. The movie skips almost immediately from the adoption to scenes of a young Christina (Mara Hobel) being abused by Joan, most viciously in what were described in the book as "night raids."

The violence in these scenes comes out of nowhere. Joan is obviously unbalanced and an alcoholic, but we're not given any hint of the underlying reasons for her rage. She just explodes – hacking off Christina's hair, attacking her with wire hangers, and beating her with cans of bathroom cleanser. Coming without any real cause or warning, the violence in these scenes takes on the feel of Three Stooges-style slapstick assaults.

As the victim of all the brutality, Hobel gives a solid performance, free of any junior-theatrical bathos. She is, however, hampered by the series of cheap-looking, ill-fitting blonde wigs she wears. (The majority of the makeup budget obviously went for Dunaway's Crawford drag.) As the older Christina, witty, subtle actress Diana Scarwid makes the most of her relatively small part. She does get one juicy exchange with Dunaway late in the film, in which she replies to Mama Joan's question, "Why can't you give me the respect I'm entitled to?" by hissing, "Because I am *not* one of your fans."

Mara Hobel and Faye Dunaway in *Mommie Dearest*.

As good as Hobel and Scarwid are, the movie belongs to Dunaway's flamboyant, fearless performance as Joan Crawford. Dunaway has always been drawn to playing colorful, real-life women, from Bonnie Parker and Maria Callas to Evita Peron and Aimee Semple McPherson. But she's not a chameleon-like actress who can easily disappear into a character. The Faye Dunaway persona always looms as large or larger than any famous figure she could take on. But in *Mommie Dearest*, Dunaway's larger-than-life persona actually works for her because, as actresses, she and Crawford were such kindred spirits. As critic Pauline Kael said of Dunaway's performance, "She gets inside Joan Crawford in a way that only another torn, driven actress could."

Dunaway also isn't afraid to look ridiculous in her role, and I don't just mean with the thick, lacquered eyebrows and linebacker shoulder pads. There are many instances where she goes to extremes in her characterization that no other actress would dare. Just one example is a close-up shot of her at the end of the notorious wire hanger-bathroom cleanser rampage, where Dunaway – covered in cold cream and Bon Ami – faces the camera with her eyes literally crossed in rage. It's a moment that's funny, scary and mesmerizing all at once.

Mommie Dearest shouldn't work as well as it does. It hits all the wrong notes; it's funny when

it should be poignant and lurid when it wants to be dramatic. Perhaps Faye Dunaway described this glorious piece of trash best when, writing in her recent autobiography, she said, "Everything about this production was out of kilter, off-center... it was camp that had gone way over the edge." Of course, Duffaway meant her comments disparagingly, but where camp cinema is concerned, one person's put-down is another's lofty praise. ▼

"Christmas With Christina Crawford," featuring a performance by the cast of *Christmas With the Crawfords*, an on-stage interview with Christina Crawford, and a screening of *Mommie Dearest*, is at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 (sold out), and Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Castro Theatre. *Mommie Dearest* will also be screened at 11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, and 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20. Call 863-0611.

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Blowing up the doll's house

Karen Finley exorcises domestic demons

by Erin Blackwell

There are two ways of looking at Karen Finley's new solo performance piece, *American Chestnut*. One is to bemoan the dress-rehearsalish disarray and cringe at the diva's real-time flashes of bad temper. The other is to appreciate the vitality of a performer whose past-mastery of an art form has not reduced her to a heartless hack. And since Martha Stewart is the evening's nominal nemesis, Finley's poetic slovenliness is perhaps best read as an Ur-housewife's refusal to "tidy up before company comes."

The Blonde Domestic Expert is mentioned only once by name, as having said, "What's wrong with America is we don't know how to stack wood." (Imagine a slow sardonic reading.) But her spirit is several times evoked, most intriguingly through the use of a doll house. In a bravura bit of technologically-assisted tongue-in-cheek, Finley transmits live video close-ups of miniature rooms onto the rear wall of the stage, blowing them up into "make believe" decors she then endeavors to inhabit as a Living Doll. This is nouveau stage wizardry at its cutting-edge best.

Video is *Chestnut*'s underbelly — its second, spectacular, mysterious self. Finley's cameras perform. Their output is structural, not illustrative. They're with her up there, live and unpredictable — like a witch's familiars. "I'm



Karen Finley

going to get it right!" she yells, taking too long to adjust the focus on a model den. "Even if it ruins my performance!" — until it becomes her performance.

The camera even "addresses" the audience. We enter Artaud's underheated bleachers to a view

of ourselves, *Oprah*-style, projected bigger-than-life on the rear stage wall. Waiting for the show to start, many of us so magnified behave just as we would in a "real" TV audience, moving and mugging and trying to get our hands

page 46 ►

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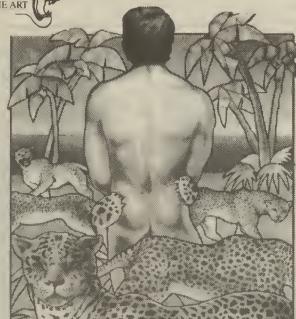
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Workin' girl

Cindy Sherman's 'Office Killer'

by Chris Culwell

Cindy Sherman has earned a unique reputation in the arts as the Princess of Gore. Her elaborately conceived photographs of catastrophic dismemberments and variously swollen and oozing proto-humanoids gaping at the camera have secured a place for her in the pantheon of terror.

But there's more to Sherman than body parts and spilling guts. A close look at the body of photographs she has produced since her career took off in earnest in the late-'70s reveals a sensibility that is as witty and aloof as it is grotesque and theatrical. A self-portrait of Cindy as a resentful executive in a black power-suit, complete with clenched fists and a face obscured by hyperactive hair, is as far from the photographer's slice-and-dice *oeuvre* as her subtly evocative *Untitled #153*, which shows Sherman sprawled out on a bed of grass, presumably dead, her flushed and bruised face staring up at the sky with a bemused expression commingled of grief and shock.

Sherman's latest work, a feature film entitled *Office Killer*, finds the artist tapping all of her many moods and temperaments, and the results are as astonishing as they are occasionally disorienting.

At the center of *Office Killer* is a mousy, introverted copy editor named Dorine Douglas (Carol Kane), who toils for an industry rag called *Constant Consumer*. Though Dorine is rapidly approaching middle age, she still lives at home with her neurotic, crippled mother, with whom she has developed an oppressively dependent relationship. Dorine loves her job because it gets her out of the house and away from mother. But when Dorine learns that the editor-in-chief of *Constant Consumer*, Virginia (Barbara Sukowa), a chain-smoking haridan with bad hair and too many jangling bracelets, has decided to downsize the operation, Dorine, fearing she will lose the only connection she has with the outside world, begins killing her colleagues and dragging the bodies home to her basement, where she props them up on the sofa and proceeds to take out her pent-up aggressions on their decomposing corpses.



Carol Kane in *Office Killer*.

Dorine's victims include an overbearing *Constant Consumer* writer, a mailboy, Virginia, and two charming girl scouts who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Another colleague, Norah (Jeanne Tripplehorn), almost escapes Dorine's murderous clutches, but Norah proves no match for Dorine, who, once she has tasted blood, can't get enough.

Fans of the horror genre are likely to be disappointed by *Office Killer* because the film doesn't behave like an ordinary horror film. Sure, it's chock-full of gore — the squishy sounds of the decomposing bodies when Dorine plays with them is particularly revolting, as is the swarm of flies in the basement — but there's also a hefty dollop or two of macabre humor, subtle and not-so-subtle touches obviously designed as send-ups of the horror genre: the cheesy-looking fire that engulfs Dorine's house at film's end, Virginia's ridiculously funny death by inhaler, the Bernard Hermann-esque opening music, even the film's inanely bald title.

These splashes of wit have

their roots in Sherman's photography, which has always leavened gore with mordant irony. But Sherman also upends expectations of the horror genre by making her villain a mousy woman who gets away with murder, a far cry from the usual male suspects encountered in horror flicks. This fillip isn't coincidental either, as Sherman's work has consistently reflected a fascination with feminist issues and the roles prescribed to women by tradition and patriarchal power.

While these resonances of Sherman's larger concerns may annoy folks who prefer their terror unalloyed, the Sherman cognoscenti will no doubt welcome them as echoes of her fearlessly confrontational and strange, yet undeniably elemental art. Indeed, *Office Killer* is so full of clues to Sherman's visual world that the film sometimes seems more like a tour of the Cindy Sherman Museum than a movie. Still, the film works on its own terms, and though it is more often hilarious than horrifying, it is genuinely creepy and thoroughly gross. Sherman would have it no other way.

The performances are terrific, especially Kane's deliriously wacky Dorine, and Molly Ringwald's Kim, the office termagant. ▼

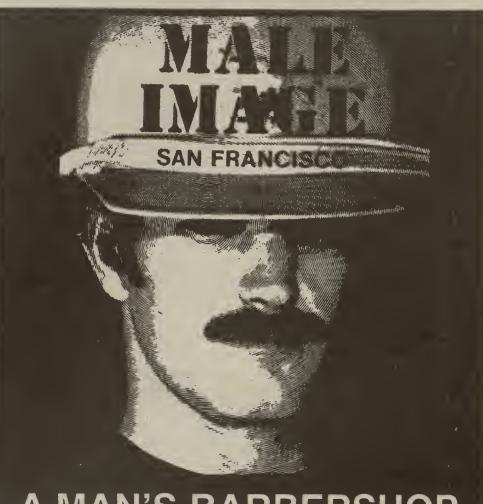
Office Killer plays December 12-18 at the Castro Theatre.

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Close encounters

by Deborah Peifer

Night Vision by Laura Adams; Naiad, \$11.95

The cover blurb for Laura Adams' novel enthuses: "If you like *The X-Files* you will love *Night Vision*!" Well, I think *The X-Files* is annoying, moronic, and boring, but I loved *Night Vision*. If anyone had suggested to me that I would have been moved and enthralled by a fictional alien encounter, I would never have believed it, but there you have it. Go figure.

Julia Madison works at the IRS and is happy in a low-expectations kind of way, at least until she begins having nightmares so vivid and painful that sleep becomes torture. When she starts waking up with strange marks on her body, marks that seem to be connected to the nightmares, Julia attends a sleep-disorder workshop. There, she discovers that the other dykes in the class also began having similar nightmares on the very same day she did. The straights in the group are clearly clueless, so the lesbians get together to solve the mystery. Each woman brings a different skill to the mix, and it is the combination of their abilities that makes resolution possible. I especially enjoyed the ways these dykes pitched in to help one another. It reminded me of the early days of the lesbian nation, when we still believed in pulling together.

Laura Adams, "a pseudonymous lesbian romance writer," creates a believable and compelling world where an alien visit is possible, and gives us characters that are vivid and credible. Each of her dyke dreamers is believably individual. The ways in which "Adams" first hints and then reveals the possibility that the dreams are in fact messages from another planet are particularly intriguing. In fact, "Laura Adams" shows such skill in plot, dialogue, and characterization that my guess for her secret identity is Karin Kallmaker. Whoever she is, "Adams" made me a believer in this close encounter. *Night Vision* is funny, suspenseful, and romantic — a real pleasure to read and recommend. ▼



Elixir of life

by Deborah Peifer

The Mayor of Heaven by Lynn Kanter; Third Side, \$22.95

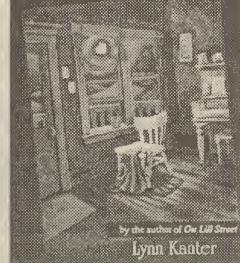
The Mayor of Heaven is about grief, at least superficially, but if it were only that there would be little reason to read it. Instead, this is a novel about living, and about the ways in which friends must return to life following the death of a friend and lover.

Following Claire's death from breast cancer, her lover Lucy, her best straight friends Rasheda and Harry, and her best dyke friend Jane wander dazed and hurting through their lives, which seem

pointless without Claire. Everything reminds Lucy of her loss, and for Claire's friends there seems little reason to get up in the morning except to hurt and mourn. But life has a way of returning, even to those who have suffered the most grievous loss. Lynn Kanter traces the tiny steps toward recovery that each character takes with delicacy and compassion. She shows us survivor guilt, but she also reminds us that surviving and finding joy in living is not just a right but the responsibility of those who live.

The Mayor of Heaven is not a depressing read. Kanter creates believable characters in credible situations, and she entertains

The Mayor of Heaven



while teaching us about living and dying. Don't miss this lovely and loving depiction of friendship. It will affirm your deepest beliefs about the power of love. ▼

Karen Finley

◀ page 44

into the frame.

Video serves to zoom in on the sexual commodification of women, as exemplified by harassment in the streets. Finley subverts the camera's usual role as panderer to the male gaze by turning it on the degraded grimaces of the male gazer, as performed by her. Lying on her back with her legs in the air, dwarfed by an extreme close-up of her own mouth, Finley does what can only be called a lip dance and lingual hootchi-cootchi that elicit shrieks

of disgusted recognition from the crowd.

Finley goes on to wonder, "Why couldn't James Bond show his ass crack with a few little butt hairs?" before proclaiming, "I want to see Al Gore's titties, nipples erect, on the cover of *Time* magazine!" She closes this section with a fashion tip. Since women wear shoulder pads to signal a real or imagined "access to power," she'd like to see falsies for men, which would indicate "adaptability, nurturing, and the right to be humiliated."

One amazing aria is performed seated, back to audience, naked as visible under the eponymous homemaker's apron. (Finley has an uncanny knack for redeeming the "female nude" until it looks like a human body.) The subject is Hillary Clinton; more especially, her failure to live down to this country's expectations of a First Lady, and her penchant for "making decisions outside the home." Finley says, "They want her to break down," before channelling

Hillary's wail: "I'm sorry, America — that I'm smarter than Bill! And he knows it! And Chelsea knows it! And I know it!"

As befits thought-provoking performance, *American Chestnut* lost several audience members during the course of its 75 minutes. The first one left right after the video tape of earthworms on a cutting board being sliced and diced — which, grisly as it sounds, both exposed and exorcised home & garden psychosis a la Martha Stewart. The escapee got Finley's attention. "Ten minutes in?" she said. "Just got bored, and that's it?"

Maybe not just bored. There's nothing simplistic, perfectionist, or nice about Finley's analysis of "what's wrong with America." There's a lot of sorrow and pain, those uninvited guests *Good Housekeeping* never tells you what to serve. Anyone concerned with the state of performance art or the union will stick this one out to the bitter end. ▼

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World's fare

Robertson, Temirkanov, Spano bring the world to Davies Hall

by Philip Campbell

When SF Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas returns to Davies Hall from hiatus this week, he's likely to notice the podium is still warm. Several interesting guest conductors have tried to spark their own kind of magic in his absence, and though the results were mixed, they were never boring.

David Robertson was supposed to have made his SF Symphony debut last January, but the musicians' strike aborted those plans. At the time, Robertson was planning to conduct Gyorgi Ligeti's Piano Concerto. What we got instead when he did mount the podium last month was William Walton's Viola Concerto, admirably performed by Geraldine Walther. The second half of the bill was given over to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, the first half to Olivier Messiaen's *Ascension*. To some, this may have seemed like haphazard programming, but for these ears the results were uncommonly satisfying.

Robertson has made quite a name for himself in Europe as music director of the renowned Paris-based Ensemble Intercontemporain. He is also an opera conductor, and though his recent debut with the San Francisco Opera was not well-received, his grasp of the issues in Messiaen's

radiant score was as sure as his take on Beethoven's time-worn classic. He is a talent to watch.

The following week brought another new face to the fore when Robert Spano conducted two Spanish works, Roberto Gerhard's charming *Allegrias* and Manuel de Falla's popular ballet *The Three-Cornered Hat*. The concert also included the world premiere of John Corigliano's *The Red Violin*, Chaconne for Violin and Orchestra.

Saens.

The concert concluded with a performance of Manuel de Falla's witty and tuneful ballet, but Spano couldn't match his young soloist for fire, and the results sounded much too episodic to generate enthusiasm.

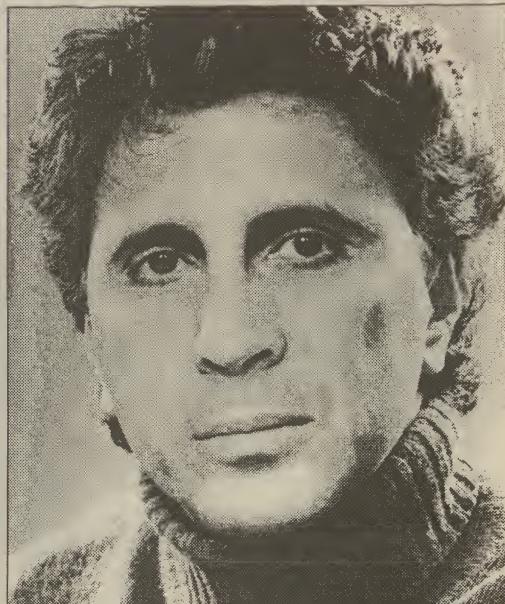
Most recently, Russian conductor Yuri Temirkanov took time off from his duties at the War Memorial Opera House, where he's been conducting performances

Composer Giya Kancheli is being labeled by critical pundits as a "mystical minimalist," a proponent of the "new simplicity," but his music is more individual and provocative than that.

tra. Joshua Bell was the impassioned soloist.

Like most of Corigliano's music, *The Red Violin* boasts an agreeable blend of melody and drama. The nods to classical forms are brilliant and demanding, and the manner in which the composer has built the piece around a subtly dissonant harmonic language suggests the piece is more than mere pastiche. Bell performed a joyride of an encore, the *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso* by Camille Saint-

of-Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, to bring the music of Georgian composer Giya Kancheli to Davies Hall. At just under 30 minutes, Kancheli's *Symphony No. 4 In memoria di Michelangelo* is a concise, disturbing work — haunting, even. Pundits have labeled Kancheli a "mystical minimalist" or proponent of the "new simplicity," but his music is more individual and provocative than that. From the off-stage tolling of bells at its opening to the faucet drip-like sound at its conclusion,



John Corigliano

the symphony guides the listener through a sound world that is by turns sad, intense, and often funny.

Yuri Temirkanov is 62 years old. Yet he managed to rehearse and perform for a week with the

SF Symphony, conduct and direct an opera with SFO, and lead the Symphony in a performance of *Ivan the Terrible* in October. When MTT returns to the podium this week, his legendary energy may seem tame. ▼

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Hawksbill Sea Turtle

Danger signs

Down an industrial alley behind SFMOMA, signs direct visitors to a loft building for The Greenworks Council and Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund holiday party. Coincidentally or not, the green party site happens to be the Jernigan Wicker Fine Arts gallery, where "Endangered Species: Artists Examine Environmental Issues" is currently on display: paintings, photographs and mixed-media which take disappearing flora and fauna as their subject.

Not all of the art is above amateur quality; however, there are enough surprises among the fifty-plus works to delight the most jaded savant. Art star William Wiley contributes a lithograph which purports to be an ancient "Relic from 3 Mile Island New Clear Evidence." Photographers Susan Middleton and David Littschwager present oversized prints of "Presidio Manzanita" leaves. Tom Marioni's photogravure printed in blue, "American Eagle," is a clear stand-out; it is also not for sale.

The Rousseau-esque "Twilight" by Antoinette von Grone is simply derivative. Her black panther and tiger stalking under a full moon are no artistic advance over her French inspiration. Roberta Loach's "Dubious Enculturation" #1 & 2 are cartoon portraits of natives sporting kitsch ties or drinking Diet Coke. Her "Ivory Collector" #1 & 2 show moneyed art collectors savoring ivory carving and jewelry against a backdrop of an elephant trussed in chains to be weighed, or rampaging phantoms. These paintings are fun, but facile.

Still, the idea of a group show actually having a discernible theme is a rarity in these parts. And the proceeds go to a good cause: the gallery will donate a percentage of sales to nonprofit environmental groups such as Greenbelt Alliance, Rainforest Action Network, and the Sierra Club. ▼

"Endangered Species: Artists Examine Environmental Issues" remains on view through January 31 at Jernigan Wicker Fine Arts, 161 Natom. Call 512-0335 for more information.

Juanita MORE! plays Reindeer Games at Space. See Saturday.



567-6088.

John McGivern Live
Monologues: growing up gay in Milwaukee. Fridays at 10:30pm thru 1/9. \$15. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 215-1001.

John Waters

King of Camp discusses his new book, *Director's Cut*, free. 7:30pm. A Clean, Well-Lighted Place for Books, 601 Van Ness. 441-6670.

Killing My Lobster

Comedy vignettes for the frequently confused. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm thru 12/21. \$9.99. Exit Theater, 156 Eddy. 267-0642.

The Last Hairdresser

Doug Holsclaw's comic deconstruction of the vicious queen, directed by Danny Scheie. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, extended thru 12/20, call for ticket prices. Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Nutcracker

Oakland Ballet in the holiday classic. Thru 12/28, call for times. Tonight at 7pm. \$10-36. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 762-2227.

Opening Night

Four Center for the Arts exhibits open; Rodney O'Neal Austin performs; Karaoke Lounge, more. \$10. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Q-Spirit

Queer spirituality group holiday celebration with authors Peter Cashorali, Jaffe Cohen, more. \$5. 7pm. Holy Innocents, 455 Fair Oaks. 281-9377.

Scott Wells & Dancers

Urban folk dance. Fri. & Sat. at 8:30pm. \$10. 848 Community Space, 848 Divisadero. 885-3340.

Vanity Case

Billy De Herrera plays cabaret superstar. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 1/17. \$12-15. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Dorothy Allison

Trash author reads with Jewelle Gomez, author of *The Gilda Stories*. \$5. 7:30pm. New College Cult. Ctr., 766 Valencia. 437-3454.

Dream Time: Spirit Dance

New dance pieces from Enrico Labayen and LAB, Project Group-USA, benefits Shanti Project, more. Fri.-Sun. at 8:30pm. \$20-25. Brady Street Dance Center, 60 Brady. 241-7330.

Hurlyburly

Pour Boys productions presents David Rabe's study of 1984 Hollywood. Fri.-Mon. at 8pm thru 12/22. \$18. Actors Theatre of SF, 533 Sutter.

Dirty Little Showtunes!

Tom Orr's comedy musical

by Krissey Keefer, script by Toni Press, music by Ferron. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2:30pm. Oakland Ensemble Theatre, Alice Arts Ctr., 1428 Alice, Oakland. (510) 652-0752.

Civil Sex

Brian Freeman's meditation on civil rights, masculinity, black gay history, and Bayard Rustin. Wed.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 3:30pm thru 12/14. \$18-22. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 641-0235.

Dear Master

Aurora Theatre Co. presents Dorothy Bryant's play based on epistolary friendship between Gustave Flaubert and George Sand. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 12/14. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant, Berkeley. 60 Brady. 241-7330.

Basket of Flowers

"America's dandiest Negro singer" Victor Dupree (Brent St. Clair) in cabaret. Fridays at 10pm thru Dec. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

But Enough About You

Lesbian comic Marilyn Pittman's one-woman show. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 12/13. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Cheryl Wheeler

Brilliant lesbian singer, storyteller in concert. Fri. & Sat. at 8:30pm. \$13.50-14.50. Freight & Salvage, 1111 Addison, Berkeley. (510) 548-1761.

Christmas with the Crawfords

Artfull Circle Theatre's musical romp with Joan Crawford and her children Christina and Christopher stars Michael Cameron Benbrook, Flynn De Marco, Connie Champagne, more. Wed.-Sat. at 1/3, call for times. \$15. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 621-5455.

Cinderella, A Tale of Survival

The Dance Brigade presents

St. Ignatius, 650 Parker. 392-4400.

Christmas Concert

MCC choirs and ensembles perform part of *Messiah*, more. 8pm. MCC/SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

Decemberfest

Shanti Holiday Social for people with HIV/AIDS. 6pm. Call for sign up. 487-4743.

Drag/Talent Show

Celebrating UltraViolet, radical queer journalism from Lesbian and Gay Insurrection. Dyke video premiere. Free. 7:30pm. New College Cult. Ctr., 766 Valencia. 641-8769.

The Hard Nut

Mark Morris Dance Group's transmogrification of the Nutcracker. Thru 12/21, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$24-48. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley.

Hunter Reynolds

Display of Memorial Dress for drag persona Patina du Prey. Also: Rodney O'Neal Austin's *Now Entering Beaver Creek, Ohio*; nine artists in *To Be Real*. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Lavender Seniors

Of the East Bay, gays & lesbians over 55 hold potluck; bring gift under \$10. Noon. San Leandro Comm. Church, 1395 Bancroft. (510) 247-2406.

Make Your Yulette Gay

SF Gay Men's Chorus' holiday concert. Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm. \$10-40. Masonic Auditorium, 1111 California. 391-4400.

Nasty Santa's Workshop

Erotic art bazaar featuring male erotic artists, free. Sat. & Sun., 11am-4pm. Studio of Leon, 4623 18th St.

Reindeer Games

Holiday party with Juanita MORE! \$40. 9pm. Call for info. Space, 1141 Polk. 263-1608.

Saturday Night Gay Comedy

Gay comics Danny Williams, Dan Rothenberg, Jean Culver. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Solstice Celebration

Arthur Evans and Bob Barzan offer story and song, free. 2pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Throne

Drag kings Fudgie Frottage & Remy Martin present variety show with Elvis Herself, The Dodge Boys, Cockatelia, more. \$5-10. Doors, 8pm; shows, 9:11pm. Embassy Lounge, 600 Polk. 331-9595 x300.

Sun

Beer Bust

Men of All Colors Together beer/soda bust. \$6. 4-8pm. Lone Star, 1354 Harrison. 675-0201.

Cocktail Party

Benefits video documentary *Looking For Mr. America*. \$20. 6pm. Martini's, 4 Valencia.

Dybbuk

A Traveling Jewish Theatre presents adaptation of the Yiddish classic. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 12/21. Bannan Place Theater, 204 Bannan. 775-4291.

All Out Cast

Improv comedy with queer twist, no cover. 8pm. Bean's, 2209 Broadway, Redwood City. (650) 369-3335.

Elena Dykewomon

Reads from *Beyond the Pale*, free. 5:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Gays & Dolls

Frank Loesser's musical fable of Broadway. Sundays at 4pm thru 12/21. \$30, incl. hors d'oeuvres, champagne & dessert w/cast. Joe Sellen Me Club, 603 Hayes #2. 252-8950.

Peter Cashorali

Reads from *Fairy & Folk Tales*, free. 3:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

PFLAG

Support group, 2pm; Pastors Phyllis Zillhart, Ruth Frost speak, 3pm, free. St. Francis, 152 Church. 921-8850.

Solstice Serenade

Geoffrey Yves-Bishop performs holiday melodies, no cover. 8pm. Harvey's, 500 Castro. 431-4278.

Spaghetti Feed

All-you-can-eat feast, comedy and musical guests, benefits legal defense of lesbian schoolteacher and coach.

Sergei Isupov's *Undecided Outcome* is part of the Teapot Invitational exhibit at Dorothy Weiss Gallery. See Tuesday.



Kenny Hayden

New uses for a dildo: Drag King MCs Remy Martin and Fudgie Frottage host Club Throne, Saturday night at the Embassy Lounge. See listing.



Wendy Weaver. \$10. 6:30pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Tangent:
Holiday Neurosis Workshop, alternative stand-up comedy by Andrea Leigh, Bridget Schwartz, David Mills. Last perf., 9:30pm. \$8 advance, \$12 door. Moxie Bar & Restaurant, 2742 17th St. 863-4177.

Mon

Gay Comedy Open Mic
MC Sabrina Matthews, up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Sam Russell
Pseudo-religious oil paintings. Thru 1/11. Quetzal, 1234 Polk.

Viscous Expectations
Color photographs and dura-trans by Cara Judea Alhadef, thru 12/31. 3rd fl., Veteran's Bldg., 401 Van Ness. 681-2624.

Tues

The Black Triangle
Photographs by Josef Koudelka, thru 12/31. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

Endangered Species:
"Artists Examine Environmental Issues" exhibit includes William T. Wiley, Tom Marioni, more. Tues.-Sat. thru 1/31. Jernigan Wicker Fine Arts, 161 Natoma. 512-0335.

Gaudete: Rejoice
Golden Gate Men's Chorus in concert. \$12-16. 8pm. St. Matthew's, 3281 16th St. 863-6202.

Gross Indecency:
"The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," Moïse Kaufman's play. Tues.-Sun., call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$25-39. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

L'Chaim!
"A Kiddush Cup Invitational," ritual drinking cups in many media, thru 2/8. \$5. Jewish Museum/SF, 121 Steuart. 543-8880.

Not Fade Away
Photographs by rock 'n' roll photographer Jim Marshall, reception tonight, 8pm; thru Dec. 21. Sorekko Gallery, 231 Grant. 421-7770.

Picasso & Villers:
"The Diurnes Portfolio," exhibit of collaboration: photographs & paper cut-outs. Thru 3/8. \$5. Ansel Adams Ctr., 250 4th St. 495-7000.

The Small Trades
Photographs by Irving Penn, with Nicholas Nixon: *Bebe & Me*, thru 12/24. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary. 981-2661.

Teapot Invitational
Teapots by ceramic and glass artists including Leah Hardy, Casey O'Connor, more. Thru 1/30. Dorothy Weiss Gallery, 256 Sutter. 397-3611.

Wed

Alaska Gold:
Life on the New Frontier exhibition: photographs and artifacts of the final frontier. Thru 1/3. \$3. California Historical Society Museum, 678

Mission. 357-1848, x 14.

Beach Blanket Babylon

Musical revue extravaganza, holiday performances. Call for times, tonight at 8pm. \$18-45. Club Fugazi, 678 Beach Blanket Babylon (formerly Green St.). 421-4222.

Bernard Maybeck

Drawings by SF radical romantic architect, thru 1/18. 6th Berkeley Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft. (510) 642-0808.

Better

Group art exhibition that explores American obsession with improvement. Wed.-Sat. thru 12/20. SF Art Commission Gallery, 401 Van Ness. 554-6080.

Between Culture and Commerce

Two years of prints, multiples and artist books by Rebecca Bollinger, Rex Ray, Carol Seltzer, more. Thru 12/31. Gallery 16, 1616 16th St. 626-7495.

A Christmas Carol

ACT presents the holiday play

adapted from Dickens novel. Thru 12/28, call for times. Tonight at 7:30pm. \$14-51. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

Great Moments...

"At the Opera House," exhibit of highlights in history of War Memorial Opera House, thru 9/7, free. SF Perf. Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

The Hospital:

Five Confessions

New installation by Russian artist Ilya Kabakov. Thru 1/31. Capp Street Project, 525 2nd St. 495-7101.

Just Paper

Unframed works on paper by

Katrien Maenhaut, Richard Ganci, more. Tues.-Sat. thru 12/23. SFMOMA Rental Gallery, Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 441-4777.

Just Shut Up and Sing!

Furry foursome the Beartones/SF's holiday show. Wed.-Fri. at 8pm. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Masami Teraoka

Paintings that combine pop art and Japanese woodblock prints, addressing AIDS, sexuality, cultural identity. Wed.-Sun. thru 1/25. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Mostra 97

Six Italian-American Photographers exhibit, Wed.-Sun. thru 1/18. \$2. Museo ItaloAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2200.

Shrink

Juried exhibition features work by Northern California artists, thru 12/20. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. 863-2141.

Thur

On Her Honor:

Lesbians Reflect on Their Scouting Experience editor Nancy Manahan and contributors read, free. 7:30pm. Boadicea's, 398 Colusa, Kensington. (510) 559-9184.

Robb Williams

Holiday cabaret act, accompanied by Tom Shaw, no cover. 8pm. Harvey's, 500 Castro. 487-5449.

The San Francisco Show

Photographs of the city by Paula Chamlee, Ken Miller, and Jerry Stoll. Thru 1/3. Scott Nichols Gallery, 49 Geary. 788-4641.

WANNA SUBMIT?

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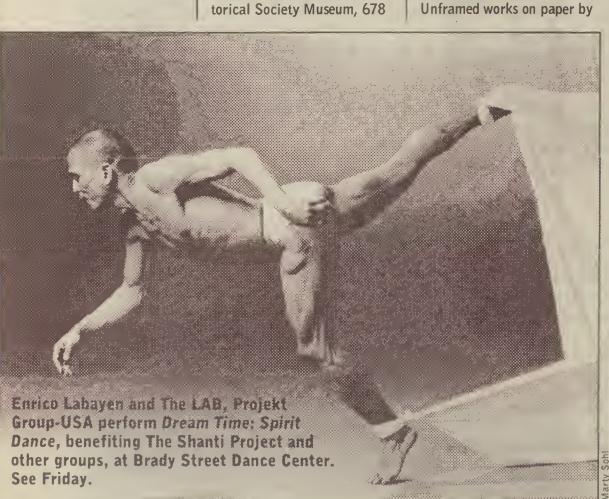
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Enrico Labayen and The LAB, Projekt Group-USA perform *Dream Time: Spirit Dance*, benefiting The Shanti Project and other groups, at Brady Street Dance Center. See Friday.

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Portland pulchritude

The holiday season is in full force, so let the sugarplums begin their dance (in full leather, of course)! Gazing deep into my crystal ball(s), January 1998 looks like it will be the kickoff of a sterling leather social season, with three major events taking place from one end of the country to the other. First, the Santa Clara County leather community starts the year with their "Top Secret: Undercover" leather weekend, Thursday, Jan. 8-Sunday, Jan. 11. The highlight of said weekend will be the naming of Mr. and Ms. Santa Clara County Leather '98. The next weekend (Jan. 16-19) marks the Martin Luther King holiday and offers up a double-whammy, as the action shifts north to Portland and east to Washington, D.C. In Portland, it's our second biggie, the Sixth Annual Uniform Weekend, by *In Uniform Magazine*. Finally, in Washington, D.C., it's the Centaur Motorcycle Club's annual Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend, featuring the selection of Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 1998.



Bazaar

Meet, greet, sash

Meet the Mr./Ms. Santa Clara County Leather contestants at the Billy de Frank Center in San Jose on Thursday, Jan. 8, 1900-2100. On Friday, Jan. 9, a Fantasy Show takes place at the Gaslighter in Campbell (\$8 advance/\$10 door). On Saturday, Jan. 10, enjoy a leather community fair with vendors, workshops, movies and a fashion show at the Billy de Frank Center from noon to 1700. Then at 1900, the doors open at the Gaslighter with curtain up at 2000 for the Mr./Ms. Santa Clara County Leather Contest. Tickets are \$8 advance or \$10 at the door. Doug Johnson and Sharon Kleinman end a most successful 14 months with the title. On Sunday, Jan. 11, is the traditional victory brunch at a site to be announced.

Rated as the best "bargain for your buck," the Centaur MC in Washington, D.C. stages its 14th annual Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend with a \$69 price tag (\$25 for the contest *only*). This fabulous weekend deal includes a meet and greet at the DC-Eagle on Friday, Jan. 16, at 2300; plus on Saturday, Jan. 17, a Leather Cocktails soirée at 1900 sharp at Tracks, with the dazzling display of colors, initiation of new officers and a leather dance. Also included is the world-famous fabulous brunch at Tracks at 1100 on Sunday, Jan. 18, followed by the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather Contest at 1300. Sunday night is the Dark Dance for all you terpsichoreans out there. Lenny Broberg and Frank Nowicki will co-emcee the contest, and the pride of Kansas City, Mike Siemer, will sash his successor. Contact the Centaur MC, P.O. Box 34193, Washington, D.C. 20043. Their e-mail address



Mr. Palm Springs Leather '97
Rick Butler won over eight other
contestants Nov. 7.

is: MAL98@aol.com.

Judges for the MAL Contest were announced late last week. They are: IMsL Genelle Moore, International Mr. Leather Kevin Cwayna, outgoing MAL Mike Siemer, IMD '96 Kyle Brandon, International Mr. Leather head judge Thom Dombrowski, former *Drummer Magazine* publisher Tony de Blas and Baltimore Eagle manager David Leshner (who just happens to be a candidate for the Baltimore City Council). I served as a judge last year, and believe me, it is never an easy job!

Sash rash update

The march toward the International Mr. Leather '98 title continues with enthusiasm and gusto. The Palm Springs Leather Order of the Desert staged its "Sweatin' Bullets" Nov. 7-9 and drew its biggest crowd ever. PSLOD president Paul Yinger reported 500 in attendance at the contest held at the C.C. Construction Company on Saturday night, Nov. 7.

There were nine contestants who went through the hurdles of pre-judging, physique and speech appearances. When all the votes were counted, Rick Butler from the Silverlake area of Los Angeles copped the title. The first runner-up was Christopher Chaput, and the second runner-up was Patrick Granger. Mr. Butler will represent the desert community at International Mr. Leather in Chicago next

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, Dec. 11

Big Basket Contest and beer bust at the Edge with the imitable and effervescent Danny Williams. Win \$100! Harass the Old Bag! Show your sausage!

Kindred Spirits MC presents a title contest for Santa's replacement: "Santa Is Missing!" Genghis Kath, biker extraordinaire and warlord wannabe, emcees this evening of pan-gay lampoon and satire from 2100 to 2400. Not a beer bust.

Leather Daddy's Boy David presents the monthly Butt-rageous Contest at Daddy's from 2000 to 2300, with a \$7 beer bust. The contest benefits the AEF.

Friday, Dec. 12

Will Clark, Northeast Drummer (from NY), hosts a beer bust at Daddy's for the Pediatric AIDS Ward Toy Drive and Stop AIDS Project, with items donated from major porn studios, Image Leather, Bent Bar Ranch and Brush Creek Media, 1900-2200.

Saturday, Dec. 13

The fifth annual Santa's Slave Auction at the Turf Club in Hayward by Randy and Beth "Busty" Elliott, 2000-2300, \$5 beer bust, 50/50 drawing, entertainment, etc. A fundraiser for the AEF and Women's Cancer Research Center. Bare Chest Cal-

endar guys will be there, too!

Lou Duff's Level II Japanese Style Rope Bondage upstairs at the Lone Star (1354 Harrison), 1230-1600. Call 550-0122 for cost and more information.

Sat.-Sun., Dec. 13-14

Art show at Leon Studio (4623 18th Street). Both days feature the work of The Hun, Wim Griffith, Harry Tanner, Bobby Cook and Roderick, as well as Leon's masterpieces, 1100-1600, free. Don't miss this one!

Wednesday, Dec. 17

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison. Clothes check mandatory. No skidmarks! Doors open 2030-2300 only. Call 863-HEAD.

The Leathermen's Discussion Group begins at 1930 at a South of Market location. The topic: "Staying in Leather Through the Divorce." (Who gets the sling? is what I want to know.) Free. Wear your leather! No white sneakers! Call 626-3747 for more details.

Wed.-Fri., Dec. 17-19

The Bearatones in concert for three nights at Josie's Cabaret in "Just Shut Up and Sing," with a 2000 curtain and \$10 fix for an hour-long musical. All you bear cubs and ursine wonders call 861-7933 to reserve.

THEATRE

Tuneful treat

Largent's production of 'Guys and Dolls'

by Mary Richards

Picture the Manhattan of 1948, when music and moonlight were a backdrop to gamblers and their gals, as they raced to stay one step ahead of the law. It's the story of *Guys and Dolls*, brought to San Francisco by the Joe Sent Me Club, and it features all those wonderful Damon Runyon characters, singing and swaggering their way through some of the best music heard in this city in a long time.

Chuck Largent's productions are becoming the place to see your favorite drag artists sharing the stage with lots of local talent. There are men playing women, women playing men, and some actors playing both sexes, just to keep the audience guessing.

Mark Eichhorn is Nathan Detroit, a brash gambler who makes a living booking crap games in odd spots like garages and funeral parlors. His love is Adelaide, head of the Hot Box Girls, played to the hilt by Beverly Plaza. Joseph Magdalena assays the role of sexy gambler Sky Masterson, the man of the moment bent on winning his bet. This bet involves a babe —

Some of the *Guys and Dolls* cast.

and some great duets — when Sky tries his own special brand of reform on Tisha Page, who plays the winsome Sarah Brown of the Save A Soul Mission.

These four main characters with all their romantic foibles get lots of help from their friends, who fill the theatre with Frank Loesser's scintillating songs ("If I Were a Bell," "A Bushel and a Peck," "I've Never Been in Love Before," "Luck Be a Lady"), accompanied by pianist Sheldon Forest. Gamblers played by George Willey, Abe Brown, Francis Vavra, Steve Foster, Joe Covington and Kevin Applegate are perfect foils for the happy Hot Box Girls, who are brought to vivid life by Peggy Powell, Davida, Suzie

Wong and Paul Campbell. They all try to keep one step ahead of Rick Salinas, as Lt. Brannagan, a man with a passion to prosecute.

Those folks who haven't been to the Joe Sent Me Club before are in for a treat. Set Designer Michael Grove and Stage Manager Randy Smith have made this small venue in Hayes Valley feel like the California version of Broadway. Your \$30 ticket includes hot and cold hors d'oeuvres served throughout each intermission, as well as champagne and "decadent desserts" after the show, when guests mingle with the cast at the outdoor deck bar. Catch this musical extravaganza while you can! ▼

Guys and Dolls is up through December 21 at 603 Hayes Street, No. 2. The December 21 performance, which will be hosted by Jose Sarria, The Widow Norton, is a fundraiser for the Widow's yearly pilgrimage to the graveside of Emperor Joshua Norton. For \$50, you can partake of a full sit-down dinner and show. Call (415) 252-8950 for more information.

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

May; he'll be sponsored by the PSLOD and the Wolf's Den. And speaking of the Wolf's Den, Justin, the owner, was spotted at the SF-Eagle beer bust last Sunday, and he verified that he has sold the bar and will be moving to San Francisco any day now. Does this turn of events presage the opening of yet another leather bar in San Francisco?

Home on the range

The holiday party season got a shot in the arm with Don Ho and Omar Moseley's party on Saturday, Dec. 6. Much hoopla on Sanchez Street, but in the process they raised \$1015 for AIDS Benefit Counselors. On Sunday, Gary Virginia's Leather Holiday Brunch at Harvey's was well-attended,

with all the usual suspects making a show in spite of the horrendous rain! Even IML head judge Thom Dombrowski of Chicago was there (en route to a New Zealand vacation). It was a fun event, and \$4400 was raised again for the ABC. The other ray of sunshine that day was the 49ers, who redeemed themselves after last week's humiliation at the hands of the Kansas City Chiefs by coming through with a win over the Minnesota Vikings! Go Niners! Go Ho! Go Gary! See you all at the Forum Xmas Party!

Exclusive! Hold the presses!

Rodeo fans will be glad to know that next year's San Diego Rodeo will be held the weekend of October 1-4. No more racing back to San Francisco for the Folsom Street Fair like you've had to do the last five years! The equine and

bovine event will take place at the Delmar Fairgrounds, but the host hotel has not yet been selected. You'll be the first to know when it's arranged! Remember, you read it here first, my public! ▼

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**SPEND
XMAS WITH SOME
X-RATED
STARS At
DADDY'S.**
December 12th, 7pm-10pm
Join Will Clark, Mr. Northeast Drummer '97
as he hosts a holiday evening of sex, sensuality
and sin! Join Will and his video star guests:
Ryan Wagner, Billy Dare, and S.F.'s Frank Parker!
Raffle and beer bust with proceeds to benefit the
Pediatric AIDS Toy Drive & The STOP AIDS Project.
Donations provided by stars appearing plus Donnie Russo,
Bo Garrett, Thom 'Man of the Year' Collins.
Additional items donated by Image Leather,
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Sign Interpreters provided courtesy of CAN.

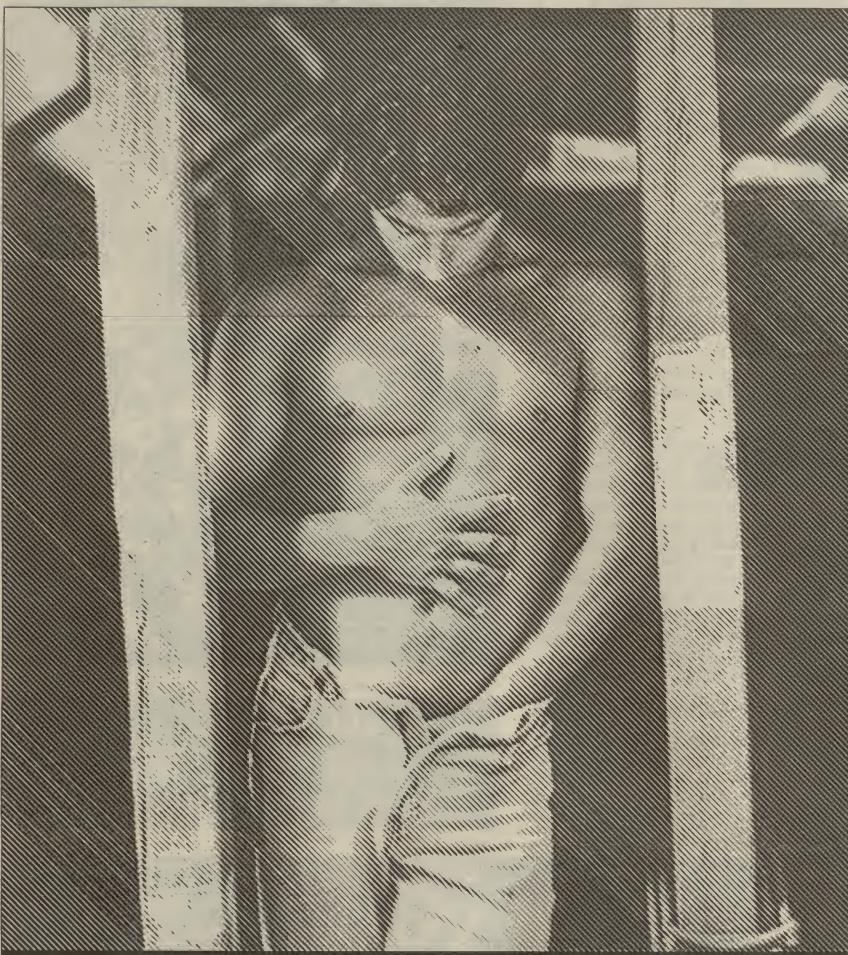
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CHRISTMAS PARTY**
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
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PRIZES FEATURING
EMPEROR BRIAN BENAMATI
PERFORMING
'SONGS OF THE SEASON'
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PARTING GLANCES

Holy Hotlips! Halloween

Boy wonder seeking twin. Met you while taking pictures at Badlands and wound up in superhero embrace. Let's get together for some dynamic duo adventure! ☎ 9007

Gumps Saturday 11/15

Boy nice meeting & talking. Wish I could have offered you coffee & gotten to spend more time. Nice last in glass. Bob ☎ 9002

Matt-Met at Detour 11/8

Went to my place. I loved your arms and shaved areas. You said my skin was soft. Again? I don't have your number. Please call. Man with wife. ☎ 9003

Joshua? Muni Wed Nov 12

I got on at Civic Center, you got off at Castro. We smiled. Me: red hair, black jacket. You: J crew bag. Call me? ☎ 9004

Frank

We met at Daddy's--Had a great time--Please call--Larry ☎ 9005

Raymond--at Castro Station

Had a great time meeting you. Forgot to give you my phone number. Call if you want to get together again. Sid. ☎ 9006

Bingo--Saturdays--I did not call

Would like to call you! Not sure if you go with a friend or a partner? Would like to know you better. Me, caller. You needed N-31. Please call. ☎ 9007

On the N Judah Nov. 21

Friday, 11/21, 9:30ish. You: tall, short hair, wire glasses, crowded up against opposite door. I: not as tall 6', 180, br/bn, goatee, slipped off at Civic Center station. ☎ 9102

BART Montgomery ST. 11/12AM

We exchanged glances several times as you disembarked at Montgomery. You: young, black wavy hair, black jeans. Me: older, suit, briefcase. You: intriguing. Me: curious to learn who you are. ☎ 9008

Tracy at Powerhouse Mon 10/27

Had great time sucking you. You drew me away from others trying to join, saying you wanted only me. Asked if I there often. Let's meet where we can continue! ☎ 9009

Malifano concert on Wed. 11/12

My asian eyes met yours during intermission. Rear balcony--you 1st row me 3rd. Awkward to say hi. Let's meet. Liked your contagious smile. ☎ 9051

Chung Lei

Where are you? I wrote your phone # incorrectly. Desperately need you. Larry. ☎ 9052

Woops! Deleted your message!

By accident, if you called the personal ad entitled "a gentleman and an animal" between Nov 10th and Nov 12th, please callback. I would like to answer your response. ☎ 9064

Cookie Hernandez of New York

Where are you? Lived at Civic Center Hotel, worked at Jugs Liquor--Friends with many and Trent during 1980's--Please call Trent. ☎ 9101

City Entertainment 11/4 11PM

You: darkskinned on bike. Me: Black male. You walked me to my car. I lost your phone number. Let's connect again. ☎ 9103

Courtard Cafe Noe Valley 11/23

You were having brunch alone; I was eating with a friend. You're handsome, blonde, 20s-30s; I'm fair, reddish-brown hair, clean shaven. We exchanged glances, but it was awkward to connect. Let's talk, meet. ☎ 9204

Mkt St Safeway Nov 16, Sunday
You talked of buying a computer to do autocad. I recommended NCA, then fumbled giving you a number. I think we have more to talk about. ☎ 9105

Fri. 11/14 Slow and steamy MUNI

You were sweating. We exchanged glances. You rubbed my stomach and smiled when you and I tall friend de-trained at Civic Center. I gave you towel. Been thinking about you. Call me? ☎ 9106

Tall "Gray" at Hole-In-Wall

Met twice briefly, hugged (wonderfull!), commented on your loving nature. Want to meet again and take time for you, but haven't seen you for weeks. Please say how to contact you! ☎ 9107

11/26 Noon blond at 18&Diamond

You: BBCap, blonde goatee, killer blue eyes. Me: BBCap, mustache, glasses. Booth looked, turned, looked again. Had appointment. Let's get together for movie/dinner? ☎ 9201

11/25 Tues at QT you: stripper

You said that I was cute, like to think you personally. Me: 6'4" Latin, like to go further with the kiss you gave me. Loved your show. ☎ 9202

Bernie--Please call again

You answered my ad for "Lean and muscular Asians," but I couldn't reach you at the phone number you left. Please call. ☎ 9203

San Jose air conditioning guy

We played at buddies on 11/17. Gann came fast and had to leave. Want to finish what we were doing? I really want to play some more. ☎ 9204

SunNov30SellingPlantsOn10thSt.

Had brief conversation. I live close by. I think you're very sexy. Let's talk. ☎ 9206

Thanksgiving Day @ 18th/Castro
You: WM buying flowers for dinner in Santa Rosa. Me: AM in black car going to Pleasanton. We bid each other a safe trip and Happy Thanksgiving. Let's Meet!! ☎ 9205

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Genuine Soul, Quality Man, 38yo
GWM, active participant in life and love. Likes music, art, nature, food and travel. Diverse and adventurous. Good fit Ital, HIV+ very healthy. Dislikes scene. \$ secure. Seeks similar loving, nurturing man who can relate. ☎ 9010

Looking for GWM

GAM looking for gogik GWM betw. 18 and 37. I'm 25yo, 5'6", 120 lbs, chinshaven and versatile. Looking for fun times in and out of bed. ☎ 9012

Let me kiss your buns bare

Husky GWM, 52, ISO E Bay muscle guy who needs oral worship regularly. Uncle, hairy, married, ok. ☎ 9013

Straight WM 55 Weeks WM 65-70

Desire to be on call cocksucker slave bring you to firm erection then lick/suck your balls while you jerk off/cum on my face. ☎ 9015

Warm and Cozy

Asian, 32, 5'9", 172#, attractive, smooth and muscular seeks well-built 25-40 for warm times together (affection, films, eat in/out) N/S, N/D. ☎ 9016

21st Century...

Neo-modern cool Aquarian 37, 5'10", 160#, br/bn. Now scanning younger brothers for assimilation in the greater concord quadrant. ☎ 9207

Machismo--Mexican wanted
Professional GWM 30, good looking. Looking for good looking Mexican 20-30 years old. HIV- Friendship or more. Movies, dining out, call me. ☎ 9018

English Professional GWM
Seeks cute, clean-shaven other half. I'm 32, 5'10", slender. I like tea, beer, cinema, reading, conversation, eating out. Please call. Cheers. ☎ 9019

Floridian wants new beginning
in Bay area. Love it. Redheads, gators, 100% humidity--no thanks. Into bicycling, nylon/spandex, films, travel, cats, ballet/modern dance and men in tights! Genealogy, travel. AMA Professional GWM. ☎ 9020

Sensitive kinky bear cub
GWM, 27, 5'10", 240 lbs, dark blonde, blue eyes. Warm, passionate, creative. Seeks top for role play, leather, WS, heavy nipple play and long cuddle sessions. LTR possible. ☎ 9021

Nice Guy seeks same
GWM, HIV+, 40, 5'10", 150lbs, has great friends and family, but without love I am nothing. Seeking GWM--next-door type who likes laughing, romance, life, love, and me. ☎ 9022

Cute bear seeks "boylish" pal
San Jose bear, 39, 5-5, 250, goatee, masculine, charismatic, seeks slimmer, younger, "boylish," HIV- bottom who lives nearby. I'm funny, warm, sweet, romantic, supportive and exceptionally intelligent. So are you. ☎ 9023

No attitude Please! Hot lookin'
Blond flattop and goatee 5'9" 140lbs, HIV+, looking for well-built and hairy man. No pain! Seeks ongoing partners and maybe LTR. ☎ 9053

Attractive Latin 26
I'm 30+, 5'7", 165, muscular, stocky build student. Seeking latins or whites under 39 for friendship, maybe more. ☎ 9054

Well-hung bottom seeks top man 47, 5'8", 130#, Brown hair and eyes, HIV+, looking for well-built and well-hung top for good times and possible relationship. ☎ 9055

Tired of D City? You head South 4 lotsa hot cumy R&R w/Xnay San Diego. Milk a big hot hard cut Irish dick dry. Sleep in my strong arms. 6,160#, Br/Br, balding, buzz, stach, goatee. ☎ 9108

Looking for a friend
350 Asian looking for decent GWM clean cut supporting for LTR no BS & no drugs, loves to take long walks and just be with one person. Blondes/redheads interested in knowing you! ☎ 9109

Real catch
Healthy HIV+ top, 5'8", 135lbs, br/mhazl, 45, quick wit, strong personality and fantastically loyal seeks partner, HIV+, stocky bottom, passionate, intense character. ☎ 9111

In search of slave
LTR for submissive GWM under 35, 5'10" or less, with slim, light body, NS, NS to include BD, SM, boot worship, dog training, and other disciplines. ☎ 9112

Is there just Mr. Normal?
Looking for quality man--25-40, mature, professional, sense of humor. NS, ND, good shape. I'm 5'9, 6'1", 180lbs, br/mh, buzz cut, goatee, tattoo, fun loving, easy going. ☎ 9113

East Bay teddy bear
Me: 6', 220#, 38", hairy, 48yo, mas-cu-line, moustache, short S/P hair, NS, HIV+, romantic, realistic, mature. You: preferably beefy, mature, upbeat, hairy, fun, conversational, romantic. Let's share stories. ☎ 9114

Passionate Lover Seeks Same
Me: 40ish, handsome, hung, good shape, affectionate top, great kisser, HIV, spiritual seeker. You: 30ish, good looking, slim, passionate about life (& hopefully me). Loves making love, honest and sincere. ☎ 9014

Friendship Relationship Sincere
East Indian ISO open, meaningful, friendship/relationship with professional sincere guys close to my own age (30). I'm tall, well-built, extroverted and a high energy person looking for an uninhibited man with high libido. ☎ 9011

Hot JO over-sexed boyfriend
I day dream about finding an ambitious, fun guy looking for successful partner. I have a lot to offer, so should you (25-45 yo) Me: gdkng, 45, Br/Br, 5'9", 170, moist, in-shape, always horny. ☎ 9115

Handsome Cowboy
Asian, 32, 5'9", 172#, attractive, smooth and muscular seeks well-built 25-40 for warm times together (affection, films, eat in/out) N/S, N/D. ☎ 9116

21st Century...
Neo-modern cool Aquarian 37, 5'10", 160#, br/bn. Now scanning younger brothers for assimilation in the greater concord quadrant. ☎ 9207

Good communicator wanted
Handsome fun-loving GWM, early 30's, 5'1, br/bn, seeks intelligent, responsible, stable, mature, non-smoking caucasian/30-40+ must have varied interests and be good-natured, for possible LTR. ☎ 9218

Hunky handsome loving package
Quality GWM wants passionate relationship and possible LTR. I'm 62, 190#, 40s, 45", 15", a, very muscular, hot Italian, soulful, loyal, exclusive, smart, talented, HIV pos. non-progressor, professional, usually charged from puppy to mother. Looking for similar 30-40yo GWM who wants to look me in the heart, die for my body and live for my soul. Prefer facial hair. Serious only. Please call ☎ 9116

Looking for love
GWM, prof young 50's, 5'11, 175#, HIV-. Want to meet W/H/L/W/M 40-50's, phy. fit, love to explore, love to cuddle. Waiting for your call. ☎ 9117

Handsome big bro.
Seeks his boyish younger half. I'm 40+ (you wouldn't guess it), 5'9, darkhaired, Jean, hairy-chested, HIV-, interests: books, movies, theater, friends. You: cute, slender, big hearted...enjoy kissing, cuddling. Intelligence A+. ☎ 9118

Latino studs wanted
by GWM for sex and/or dating. I'm 34, 5'10, 153#, bottom to versatile, into gym, jogging, biking, hiking, books, film, looking for GLM 5'9+, 24-37, good shape top to versatile. ☎ 9119

A good man is hard to find
Sonoma area Cuban GWM, 50, healthy, HIV, great body, looking for a man who enjoyed serving another man. Me: hairy, well-hung, very loving, nice looking, N/S, N/D. Try me. ☎ 9120

Extra, extra, read all about it.
This 38 yo, GWM wants a single man, experienced in love preferred, but I'll accept trainee. You be open to love and more. ☎ 9121

Friendship first, then...
Me: 30, blonde, introspective, intuitive, romantic, intelligent, compassionate, earthy, You: around 26-36, sincere, focused, relationship-oriented. Pluses: Latino or Asian, no drugs, leather-oriented. ☎ 9126

Handsome muscular Italian
GWM, 38, 6'2, 185lbs, into fitness, travel romance and quiet times. Seeks another HIV+, extremely well-hung Latin man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 9207

Love dominant tops
GWM 45, 165#, 6', seeks men who are aggressive in bed, especially for long time. Yours on regular meetings. Yours for pleasure+ sex. ☎ 9208

I want you!!
Wanted: one GWM bottom 48-55 yrs who wants more than a one night sexual healing. Offered: one GWM top, late 40's ISO ongoing bed partner or LTR. I'm affectionate, articulate and communicative. ☎ 9209

Feel my body, taste my passion,
quench my desire and fulfill me. GWM, 38, 5'7, 140, shaved head, moustache, goatee and tattoos. ☎ 9210

When a man needs a man...
Sounds familiar? Well, we've something in common. Attractive GAM, mid 30's, affectionate romantic, fun ISO tall goodlooking GWM, 30's, sim. sim. qualities for love, friendship, outdoors & more. ☎ 9211

A good home
Offered to trim, honest guy under 30 by adventurous, fun-loving, masculine guy. Interest in long-term relationship, travel and art a plus. ☎ 9212

Sonoma Co. Country bear buddy
Seeks other well-endowed, tough-it-out, hairy, mousticed bros for consensual play. Me: GWM, 50, 5'10, stocky, cute, Silver beard. Prefer mutual deep throat head. You: rigid honey shaft, willing & able. ☎ 9213

Seeking special man
GWM seeks on-going sexual relationship with sensual GWM who enjoys being touched, handled, stroked, loved, massaged, and masturbated by another guy. I'm 51, 5'8, 175#, br/mh/br, beard, HIV-. ☎ 9214

Poz bottom seeks Poz top
Good-looking, inshape, healthy, sexy, GWM, bottom ISO dom, top for possible LTR. I'm 35, 6', 165, 7.5w/c, goatee, short thinning hair. You be 32-42, masc. ☎ 9215

W/M 53 seeks daytime friend.
I'm a S.F. native. 5'11, 185# with night job. I enjoy interesting people. Older/ younger G/bi/STR welcome. I'm in Daly City and discreet. ☎ 9216

Testosterone
At first, I (attractive, sexy, GWM) admit, I really wanted power. But now, I don't know, maybe the trappings of power (attractive, tall, GWM) would be enough. ☎ 9217

Good communicator wanted
Handsome fun-loving GWM, early 30's, 5'1, br/bn, seeks intelligent, responsible, stable, mature, non-smoking caucasian/30-40+ must have varied interests and be good-natured, for possible LTR. ☎ 9218

Cute boy for sexy older man 53+
I'm 28, 6'1, 159#, HIV. With striking looks, body and mind, a boy that many naughty older men desire. I have a great deal to offer to other exceptional men of class only. ☎ 9219

Hispanic chub seeking LTR
Me: 6'1, 300#, smooth, blk/blz, late 20s, clean cut. You: under 40, professional, easy going, fun, and masculine. Seeking chasers for LTR—serious only. S 9220

Lonely giant boy
Long blonde hair, loves West Hollywood, desires very oral friendship. Likes long hair videos, poker, blackjack, skiing. Nice body, sexually pleasing, late 30s. ☎ 9221

Attractive, Adventurous, & Rich
GWM, 40s, 5'8, 177, yg, clean-shaven. Extremely successful, happy, humorous, down-to-earth, loves life/people. ISO GWM/GLM for friendship, dating, sex. Be under 30, cute, thin. Me: top/bottom. ☎ 9222

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Legendary black E. Bay topman
enjoys hot quickies with mature, masculine, non-bearded bottoms. All races welcome. Please no impossible-to-reach, never leave SF types! Husky men, Hispanics, moustache a+. Open up. ☎ 9024

I can suck start a Harley
Visiting Eurotrash model seeks sex, sex, and more sex. Hands, dick, feet, throat, butt, ears—it's all game. There's nothing better than a trick who leaves town. ☎ 9025

Scottish Virgins
Two single friends—30ish—seeking fun on our first visit to SF Nov. 27-Dec. 5. We're wild and wilder. Check out what's really under those kilts. ☎ 9026

Kick back!
GWM, 5'10", 160, br/bn, shaved. Lvs to suck and play with cock. You masculine, trim 18 to 25, GW, A or Hispanic. Let's have fun. ☎ 9027

ISO Hot top(s) 55+
HIV—with playspaces. 8"+, F/S, toys. Average looks and body ok. Smoke, drink, aromas, etc. a must. Me: 48, 6', bottom, round butt, deep throat, dildos and more. ☎ 9028

Happy Together
Smooth, full body oral sex, 5'9" waist. 28. You healthy, beautiful stud with lustful fantasy for Asian. Under 30, big, hard and discrete. Worship each other physical difference. Describe yourself. ☎ 9029

Let me service your big feet
GWM seeks WM to 45yrs+, with big feet. Love to lick and suck clean white feet. Sit back and let me do you. No reciprocation. Your place, Oakland, East Bay. ☎ 9030

East Bay tough guys
GWM, 49-5-10, hairy, HIV+, wants hairy rambunctious buddy in East bay for wrestling, boxing, piss and cum fights, fight for top. Your place preferred. ☎ 9031

Asian seeks Asian sex
5'11, 175#, 40, HIV+, seeks Asians, 5'7 and taller, HT/WT prop., 20's thru 30's, HIV+ and more of a top for regular encounters. ☎ 9032

Who will teach me?
GWM, 25, tall, slender, smooth, handsome, HIV+, wants to discover tender gay sex with a responsible 25-35 GWM. White collar a+. NS/ND. Serious only. ☎ 9033

Hey boys with big toys and ears
WM 40s very masculine dominant top seeks a submissive bottom boy with a hungry hole, big dildos and a craving for heavy duty phone sex on a regular basis. ☎ 9034

Mouthwatering Butt
muscular, masculine, mature GWM, serious gym goer, 5'6, 170#, intelligent, loves to take it deep and long. You be cool top 25-40, hung, masculine, fit, HIV-. Straight/bi ok. ☎ 9035

Just kick back
and let this horny, 44, Italian stud, 6', 190, goatee, suck your dick and eat out your butt. Fri & Sat nites in Castro 12-5am sex. ☎ 9036

Hairy top fist daddy
ISO experienced, insatiable bottom. 6'1, 45, proportionate, flexible schedule. Pluses: younger, proportionate or body build, butt, butt, available. ☎ 9037

Randy granddaddy bear 57
needs nasty hog with wheels to give me the run around. Luv raw nekkid dirty runs, but don't see well enough to drive. ☎ 9038

Cock sucking Magic
talented SF silver-haired fox has oral sex down to a fine art. Looking for GWM tall and handsome, well-endowed, HIV+, always horny, between 35-50. Blond/blue eyed a+. ☎ 9039

Sex buddy wanted
For GWM, 5'11, hairy, 60-40 bottom, HIV+, UB GWM, or BM, med hair, 60-40 top, HIV+, 45 and under, leather and kink and let's explore. ☎ 9040

Hung big
Hot 6', 37, 155lb, good-looking all-American collegiate-type w/ gym toned body. Hung big, versatile. Seeks good-looking guys for fun. Couples a plus. ☎ 9056

Sukker 4 a pretty face!
WGL white boy ISO XXXTremely cute boy. 4 best blowjob of your life. I'm 5'8", 140, bl/bl, goatee w/ smooth body, very oral. U...be all that. Unknt a +! ☎ 9057

Shower massage
Sensual and erotic hot water and soap massage for lean-bodied masculine young boys with masculine trim Wm 40. ☎ 9058

Leather top ISO trim boy-slave
40's, 6', 160#, will train very submissive boy in bondage, footlocking and obedience. You will spend time hooded, gagged and plugged. Hairless and pierced a plus. ☎ 9059

Just shut up and ride
WM, 32, 5'10, 200#, blond/blue, muscle hunk (48" ch, 32" w, 18" arms) wants good-looking, masculine men to pump me and/or get pumped. Also like to get jerked off—anytime. ☎ 9060

Over-sexed bottom needs top!
47, 5'8", 130#, HIV+, well-hung 8+ looking for hairy and hot top to fill my needs and fulfill my horny desire! ☎ 9061

Fat & big men into dildos
GWM, 5'11, 240#, big lits, hung seeks Big and Fat men into mutual dildo pleasure. Men with big lits, belly and butt. Discretion, please. ☎ 9062

GWM needs Asian boy
Hot stud w/ 8" tool needs to be serviced by GA. Am 100% top, so will need hot mouth and ass. ☎ 9123

Queer for big dicked JO
Big dicked nice looking, masculine guy seeking others for big dicked mutual masturbation. Thickness a plus. ☎ 9142

Cute GWM, 5'yo, 5'6, 116#
Smooth and cute, looking for GWM, 19-37yo, ht/wt proportionate, cute with tight white ass for hot times. Be attractive, versatile and into having a good time. ☎ 9125

Cock service
GWM, late 40's, trim, nice looking. I enjoy giving head to mature men. If you're trim, late 50's or older, clean, HIV+, call me! No reciprocation necessary. Your place. ☎ 9128

A1 Oral service delivered
SF GWM, HIV+, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocation. HIV-. ☎ 9129

Take me down
Seeking partners for wrestling, etc. if the chemistry mixes. GWM prof 35yo, 5'7, 150, solid, br/bn, moustache. Serious only. ☎ 9130

SF over 50 Gummibot wnts eves
45, WM, 5'10, 165#, HIV+, med bld, br/bn, musta, 7X52/2 cut cockring meat kicks back for hungry milker (no teeth) reg basis. Serious gummassers only. Leave #. ☎ 9131

Full leather daddy otter seeks
full leather daddy bear in SF. Looking for older versatile masculine hirsute man in shape, no drugs, scat. Me: 41, 5'11, 150, and very playful. ☎ 9132

Enema Play
Muscular man, new to scene, needs experienced enema man to introduce him to the pleasures of asshole cleansing. ☎ 9133

Seeking smegma

For GWM, 5'11, hairy, 60-40 bottom, HIV+, UB GWM, or BM, med hair, 60-40 top, HIV+, 45 and under, leather and kink and let's explore. ☎ 9040

Old enough to be your dad
strong enough to be your master; hot enough to be your fantasy. I'm looking for a young, fit bottom boy committed to service and anal pleasure. ☎ 9135

Mouth eager to please
Need someone to explode your balls? Want a soft tongue and throat to explore your piss slit? Are you horny, Asian, Latin, etc? Call now. Same day/night call back. ☎ 9136

Hunting for a houseboy!
Professional, financially secure, muscular GWM master, 40, seeking very muscular, bodybuilder, 20-30. Must be a submissive, muscular bottom and enjoy taking orders. F/T, P/T muscleboys only. ☎ 9137

Sex-starved in Sonoma county
Me: hungry, middle-aged, love rimming/sucking, fun, healthy, attractive, generous. You: 18-35, horny, not fat, love getting fucked, rimmed, not a tweaker. Daytimes best. ☎ 9138

I wanna suck your butt
Castro Italian stud, 44, 6', 190, mst & goatee, rugged build looking for studs who like to be eaten. Let's get together. ☎ 9139

New buddy East Bay or SF
Tall, handsome, hung WM, 36, seeks HIV+ younger WM to kick back, watch hot male videos with. Into massage and intense oral sessions with mostly smooth, slender to average guys. ☎ 9140

GWM 54ys 5'2" HIV+
116# with hot tight clean hairy little ass. Need: be played with by fingers, hand or cock. Also work on my balls hard. I love sucking cock. ☎ 9141

Rare and rewarding adventures
Hedonistic and energetic topman, 18-32 and impressively built overall, sought for bold physique exhibition and appreciation of a perverted artiste. If straight or bi, his shapely, glamorous WFT partner, 25, can play. ☎ 9142

Leatherman Give n take
Very muscular part-time leather man, 6'2, 185#, 40yo, 46°C, 16'A, sexually wild, versatile, looking for butt play buddy and possible relationship with 25-40yo, also very muscled with preferred facial hair, who wants to connect emotionally and physically with another top notch man. Call: ☎ 9127

Questions only you can answer:
Am I your best cocksucker ever? Will I get you to shoot your biggest load yet in drilling sports? Let's find out soon! ☎ 9223

Asian/Happa muscle tribe
You are muscular, defined and way into sharing your body in a safe and nurturing brotherhood of sensual creativity. Hsy to ascribe: grow at your own pace. Call for details. ☎ 9224

Cowboy leather S&M
Hot 6'2 225# w/ full cowboy gear (chaps, spurs, boots, etc.) wants man with some interest for sex and s/m (crops, whips, etc.) fantasy ☎ 9225

Wanted: big firm butt
Versatile, 5'11, well built, hung big. Needs Cau men, well built w/ big hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 9227

Raunch buddies wanted by
masc. WM 35 into dirty butt plowing, mutual scat runs, do public bathrooms turn you on too? ☎ 9227

Round solid chunky beefy butts
Colossal, herculean butts sought for mutual oral pleasure. HIV+ a must. Possible 3-ways. Smooth and slim preferred but not exclusive. Age and looks no problem. ☎ 9230

Fustigation & flagellation, etc.
Caligula's back from Europe to spank white-collar jerks. Regression/nostalgia/fantasies/scenarios/enemas available. ☎ 9063

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

"1953 Big Taurus" fully loaded
Big 8 in the floor, clean talipipe, firm bumper, Curb weight 180#. Wheeble 5'11. Mocha exterior with sheepskin seat covers—sees young driver with big hands and feet. ☎ 9231

Tired of women
50 year old WM 6 feet 185# HIV+ and healthy, recently divorced wants to explore safe sex with a man. ☎ 9232

Hot piece of ass wanted
Dominant, muscular, fuck stud, 38, 190#, 6'1, great shape! Seeks boys/ men 25-45, thin to muscular, hard body required, who like to service dick and get fucked. Not S&M. ☎ 9233

Uncut men only
35, 36, 180, uncut and well-endowed would like to meet other in-shape uncut men 25-50 for adventure. ☎ 9234

Old guy wants black top(s)
to service. Me: 5'11, WM, HIV+, to work up your cock and balls with my throat and ass. Let's get together. ☎ 9235

Gourmet cocksucking
Nothing to do with how big your meat is but everything to do with how big your load is. I'm real good at getting you to shoot more than you thought you could. ☎ 9236

On your knees, boy!
Musco, musc, GWM, 40's, seeking muscle boy to train. Lots of rope, leather, and chain assures obedience, and a playground assures privacy. You: 20's to 40's, hard muscular, smooth body that can handle a good workout. ☎ 9237

Mutato guy sexy intelligent, educated, good-looking, light-skinned.
I'm looking for the right guy for fun and good times. ☎ 9228

Hung guys wanted!!! I'm looking
for guys who are hung 9 inches or better for fun and good times. ☎ 9148

Looking for Latinos, low hangers, oral, Asians, geeks, foreskin, tattoos, ass spanking, perky nipples, versatile, fun dildes with moderate to no body hair. ☎ 9238

Sex stud required
38 yo coodooking hard-bodied athlete ISO 100% obedient slave to own. Need to be expert cocksucker. Be into raunchy, verbal abuse. Kneel naked at my feet, make me proud. ☎ 9239

Hot guy w/ top ring s/s barefoot
buddy. Masculine, tan, goodeaking East Bay GWM, 5'8, 140#, HIV+—craves reciprocal foot licking, smelling, caressing, massaging, naked body closeness, safe 10, fantasies. Light odor, toughened soles ok. Further friendship possible. ☎ 9240

Farm dirt play
wanted by raunchy guy. I am looking for dirty tricks at the farm. I am 48, 6-1, 185#, gd/gk, and a very horny animal. ☎ 9042

Muscle worship
WM, late 40's, seeks muscular guy of any size into flexing and having his muscles worshipped. Like defined biceps, hot pecs, Asians/blacks a plus. ☎ 9043

Slave wants unique control top
Goodlooking kink submissive slave longer! "Commitment" as your live-in, employed but otherwise 24/7 sex slave "patient" needing brutal "mental hospital treatment" with straightjacket, position irons, enemas, severe genital electro/whipping. ☎ 9044

Slave seeks top
Wanted by hot, muscular 35yr old. I will service them for you. I'm very good at what I do, suck, lick, pull, etc. the bigger, the freakier, the better. Serious only. ☎ 9242

Head trades ass for humiliation
Circumcised men (chubby ok) are welcome to fuck (with condoms). An otherwise straight WM humiliation pig, if willing to verbally abuse, spit and piss on him without apology or hesitation. ☎ 9243

Head and rim in Sonoma county
Nice looking, generous middle-aged "dad" loves giving oral service to slender or medium built guys. 18-35. No reciprocation. Daytimes best, meet first, then your place or mine. ☎ 9244

Stud butthole licker
Muscular jock with rimseat, looking for a stud who likes his asshole worshipped by a hot, obedient tongue. Verbal abuse a big plus. ☎ 9246

Slave training!
Masculine good-looking top with firm but gentle style seeks sub for training in bondage and S&M. Limits respected. Safe sex oriented. No drugs/drunks. ☎ 9046

Voyage to Uranus
Clearcut GLM seeks GWM and GLM 25-40 for ass worship and playing doctor in a non-scat safe sex scene/HIV-call for probe launch. ☎ 9062

Need a change?
44yo goodeaking big guy seeks guys 30-45 for wearing and diapers and plastic pants. Let's cuddle and fondle each other's full diapers. Ready for a change? I'll do it. ☎ 9143

Funny foot fun
GWM, 35, 6'3, gym-toned, bio/bl seeking funky feet on hot men, turns on: nylon socks, sheer socks, latin men, daddy types, hung hairy, kinky sex too? HIV- ☎ 9144

Where are the gloryholes?
All the ones I knew of have been plugged up. There's got to be more out there somewhere! Could we help me find more current ones, especially northeast of SF? Information rewarded by goodeaking guy with you on the other side. ☎ 9145

Fireman wanted
Are you hot and horny, ready to put out my flames? Come and fulfill my fireman fantasies. ☎ 9146

Spanking and assplay
Cute semi-chubby man, young looking 41, 5'9, 200, needs nipple pleasuring, spanking, anal toys (if supply), humiliation. Non-reciprocal and safe play only! Younger men preferred. ☎ 9147

Bike butt needs end work
Athletic, serious cyclist. Hairy daddy, 40's, long blk blond hair, and butt hair. Big crotch/chafing and lugs. ISO rear-end man to perform quality work in dark tight area. Great rewards for dedicated, talented worker. ☎ 9148

Sexual study required
38 yo coodooking hard-bodied athlete ISO 100% obedient slave to own. Need to be expert cocksucker. Be into raunchy, verbal abuse. Kneel naked at my feet, make me proud. ☎ 9231

FETISHES

Oral fetish exploration
I'm a 38yo GLM, 155#, 6', and the person of a person casually sucking on his eyeglass stems, pens, etc. really makes me horny and orally submissive. All types welcome. ☎ 9041

Farm dirt play
wanted by raunchy guy. I am looking for dirty tricks at the farm. I am 48, 6-1, 185#, gd/gk, and a very horny animal. ☎ 9042

Middleman seeks couple
Handsome Italian, 40, HIV-, goatee, usually bottom, can be versatile, seeks couple for occasional or regular play. You are 25-45, secure in relationship, horny and imaginative. ☎ 9251

Sex freaky cool
HIV+ couple: Chicano, 27, Japanese, 26, ISO other young Latino or Asian. Interests include film, performance art, respect, honesty, fulfillment, community building and cultural revolution. No drugs or alcohol. Down. ☎ 9252

Traveling Bi seeks same
Me male, going to Ft. Meyers, FL. Leaving SF on Dec. 15, 1997. Returning to SF Jan 12, 1998. Seeking bimale to share expenses, fun, maybe more. ☎ 9049

Class act!
Educated, articulate, fun-loving accomplished GW 44 yo prof. seeking similar for companionship at classical concerts, theatre, barn-raising and ice cream socials. While I am not seeking romance or sex, whenever destiny manifests, I harken to its call. Age ethnicity or shoe size unimportant. ☎ 9151

Rose Bowl trip
Michigan grad, fan seeks similar for Rose Bowl trip. Cheer the Wolverines on to victory. I'm GM, 37. ☎ 9253

Straight voyeur has fantasy
Mature WM wants to watch couples get it on stopping short of climax and jerking off first one load then the other on my face while I masturbate. ☎ 9248

Santa, I've been good and bad!
Now I need a real Polar-Bear Santa to tell me so. Where are you beautiful silver-haired bears with the red and white furry cap? You sit in your chair and let this goodeaking guy work you over until you Ho! Ho! Ho! ☎ 9245

COPLES

Hot hung muscle couple wanted
by handsome, masculine, inshape 6'1 185# versatile HIV- that likes smooth skin, big muscle and cocks and wants to be in the middle. ☎ 9047

Interracial Cpl ISO couples
Attractive sexy masculine couple seeking similar for hot sex. GBM: 6ft, 170lbs, shaved head, goatee and versatile. GWM: 5'9, bl/bl, top. Both 32 yo and over 7 inches. ☎ 9048

Master and slave HIV+

Seeking muscular dominant top men, any race, 30-45. Must be hung extra big/thick to put pussy hairy. We are 30's, fit, attractive, white. ☎ 9149

Virile Bi-sexual man...

You can date my wife and fuck her. I'll watch. Also three-ways. She's black and sassy. ☎ 9150

Crazy sexy cool

White guy smooth, great shape, healthy HIV 30's, seeks adventures with GM couples. Interracial especially desired. Unwrap me under your Christmas tree. ☎ 9247

GM couple 27 new to Bay area
Want to meet other GM couples 20/30's. NS/drug free, not in club scene. Enjoy talks over dinner. Walks, hiking, travel and the holidays. ☎ 9250

Middleman seeks couple
Handsome Italian, 40, HIV-, goatee, usually bottom, can be versatile, seeks couple for occasional or regular play. You are 25-45, secure in relationship, horny and imaginative. ☎ 9251

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Lesbian

Fetishes

Couples

Others

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'In the Life' looks at the year that was

by Gary Morris

Even though it's not technically the end of the year just yet, enough has happened in 1997 to justify the December episode of PBS' *In the Life* casting a long backward glance. With the sitcom *Ellen* we encountered our first "prime time lesbian," though surely with Lea DeLaria sizzling on Broadway, not our last. We met a "homicidal homosexual" (per Tom Brokaw) in Andrew Cunanan, and there was a historic first, a direct message to homosexuals from a sitting — or perhaps lying down — president.

Nineteen-ninety-seven was also the year of the great sex debate, which may be news to those folks who don't regularly read *The Nation* or some of the more pompous monthly gay rags that have been weighing in on the discussion. *In the Life* does a nice job summarizing the two positions — the reactionary anti-sex attitudes of Gabriel Rotello, whose *Sexual Ecology* urges us all to become as boring as our straight neighbors, and the more sensible voices that believe we should stress safe sex over mindless monogamy.

Rotello and his assimilationist ilk would probably find a sympathetic ear with the Promise Keepers, that notorious front organization for various anti-women reli-

A scene from *On the Town* with Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Lea DeLaria.

gious interests. *In the Life* reveals the forces behind this knock-kneed group of gutless hets who expect women to serve them like slaves. They seem to take a kindly view of homosexuals, putting out books like *Helping the Homosexual*, but only a fool would believe their literary efforts are anything but an attempt to help us become heterosexual. *In the Life* puts these guys in perspective by mentioning the heartening statistic that the *Ellen* coming-out episode attracted 42 million viewers while the Promise Keepers march brought together a pathetic 500,000.

Also featured on this episode is a "day in the life" segment on Dr. Kate O'Hanlan, an out lesbian ob/gyn who has pioneered the education of other doctors in the area of gender bigotry; her "Ho-

mophobia as a Health Hazard" documents for the medical profession the physical and psychological ill-effects of this persistent phenomenon. She's also a charmer with a sense of humor ("Surgery is fun!" she says).

The ever-welcome Lea DeLaria offers more lesbian fun in a sequence on queer theater. Who knew this Jackie Gleason look-alike would triumph as she has in the revival of *Comden and Green's On the Town*? From the clips shown, it looks like the show pivots entirely on the comic's robust talents, and it's clearly a must-see for anyone planning a trip to New York. ▼

In the Life airs on KQED-9 Wed., December 17 at 11 p.m.

Out There

◀ page 35

chat with Alison, the writer reveals that a teenage Alison "crashed her car in Beverly Hills, failed a breathalyzer test, and spent three years on probation." Later, after announcing to her interlocutor that she "no longer drinks and drives," Alison said she "dropped out of college in Santa Barbara and went to Paris to become a model." When that horse was shot out from underneath her, she returned to California and that imaginary career in acting. Although she said "there was some theater work," the article never mentions a single play title or role.

Ironically, for someone who has virtually no experience doing much of anything, Alison has just started her own production company. Her first project? A biopic on tormented '30s screen siren *Jean Harlow*. Hooray for Hollywood. When not a bastion of nepotism, it's a gravedigger's delight.



Henny Youngman

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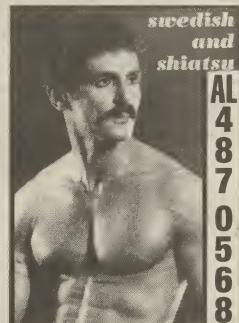


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Let's get kosher

Yes, we know we've been talking up a storm lately about *Christmas with Christina Crawford*, but, believe it or not, there are other things happening around town. If you're at loose ends this Christmas season, we suggest you buy a ticket to the annual *Kung Pao Kosher Comedy*, an evening of Jewish comedy, Yiddish proverbs, and mouth-watering Chinese food. Last year's three-day celebration sold out all shows and catered over 2,000 attendees. This year, to accommodate the demand, KPCK has expanded to four nights. The line-up of talent includes **Charlie Varon**, **Judith Sloan**, **Lisa Geduldig**, and special guest-star, comedian **Henny Youngman**, better-known as the "king of the one-liners." It all happens at the New Asia Restaurant (772 Pacific Ave.) on December 23, 24, 25 and 26. There are two shows nightly, at 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Tickets (\$30-\$40) must be purchased in advance (as must all vegetarian dinners). Call 552-3737 for more information.

Petits foires and candy canes

Finally, darling chatterbox **Filumena Wunderfrau** called the other day to tell us that folks at the *San Francisco Examiner* are planning a lovely holiday get-together next week. We don't know all the particulars just yet but according to Fil, a memo passed around the *Ex* office revealed that a certain **young reporter** on staff there wants to organize a "dessert baking contest" among the staffers. You can only imagine our surprise when we learned the identity of this would-be **Betty Crocker**. Why, it's none other than the author of that recent *Ex* series on gay dating, you know, the hyper-masculinist who rejected **"Matt"** for being "too femme." Well, guess who's wearing the apron now? ▼

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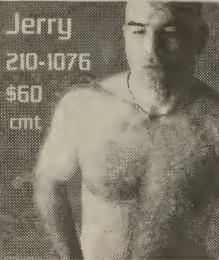
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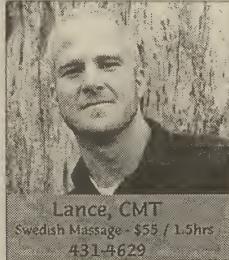


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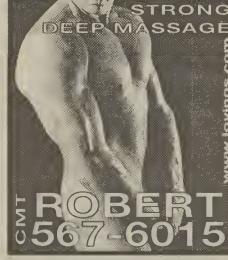
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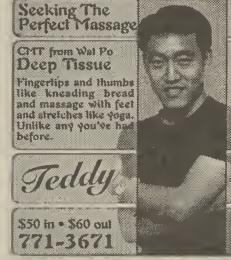


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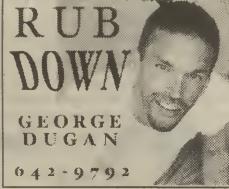


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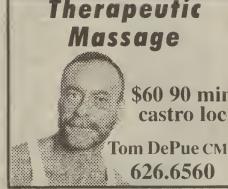
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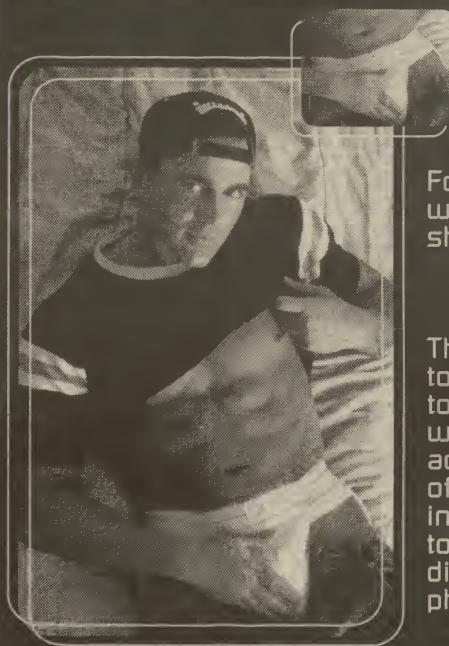
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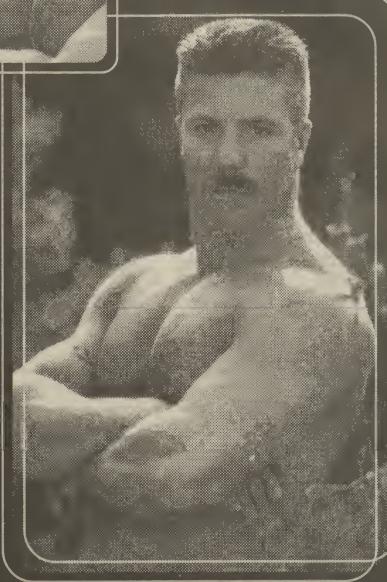


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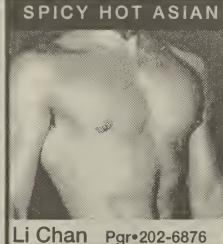
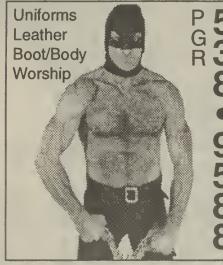
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muscular, masculine, hunky, mature
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White young 20yr old oral expert
5'8 145# blk hair blu eyes will
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Pls call Casey 790-0519 Safe sex.

Butch-beautiful, body-born to be
A top-tree hard, uncut thick 10"
560-7081 In/out

5'9" 150 Blk Brn

24 NEW BI LATINO

Out calls only Escort or Massage
916-506-8810 Marc

NEEDED:SERIOUS HEAD

for handsome, hot, jock, thick 9"

*outcalls*405-9669*Mike

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Offers to come over & keep you
company. Oral expert. Please call
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SACRAMENTO HUNK

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for pic <http://lacievideo.com> No BS

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DOMINANT LEATHERMAN,
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FANTASIES 38yo, 6'1",
200#, MARINE LOOKING,
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BLUE EYES, MUSTACHE, 7"
UNCUT. BEGINNER TO ?
HAVE EQUIPMENT AND
PLAYSPACE.

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HUGE 9"x7"

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Friendly • Versatile Top/Bottom
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6'2.5"/ V. Attractive/ 180lbs.

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Shaved Head
9.5" x 6.5" 415-267-6944

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Hot 25yo old Dominant master

SKINHEAD SADIST

does SM, bondage, humiliation,
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In/out Long or short term

Master Eric (415)560-3784

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warm hands/heart.CMT

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chest, beautiful sexy yummy ass twin
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Luke 201-6533 Out only

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Masculine rough trade type

Passionate, strong & aggressive
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6' 190# beefy tight body &
handsome handsome

Better than Valium! 715-6410 Brad

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23, 6', 160 br/bl w/huge 9X6 tool
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2 NINETEEN

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WE ARE BOTH SMOOTH, TONED
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Mark-blond blue eyes, 5'10, 10" cock

Josh-black hair 5'7 130# 7" cock

Say G/day to us

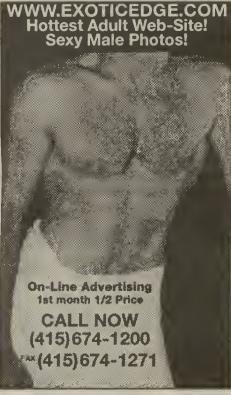
Page 790-5076 Out only

Naked runner \$40 51yo 347-2468

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Bodybuilder,
220lbs, 6'1", 52ch, 21"A,
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PAGE HUNTER

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- Let Go

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sm, bd, cbt, tt, ws, ff.
all things
beginners welcome

Luke

(415) 560-9770 pgr/vm

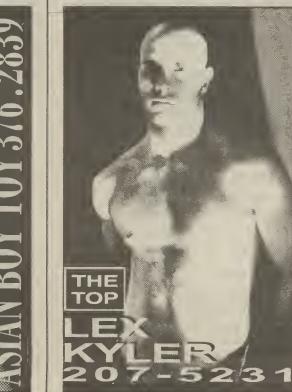
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WITH A TOP WHO ENJOYS
TAKING HIS TIME, TALL &
BUILT. FULL PLAYROOM.
RICK 431-0959

Anthony

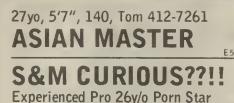


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ROUGH BLK TRADE

Wants 2 force U2 your knees, 2 consume
my 8" cut of thick blk manhood. 5'8",
170#, 30yo, attract top muscle stud
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Harvard Rowing Team
WASP, good looks, ripped body
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FEET/SIZE 12"

Good 1kg 38yo top, 6'1", 190 lbs.
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10 1/2 INCHES 10 1/2 INCHES

I'm a 6'2", 220 lb, muscular jock.
22yo with a thick forever hard tool of
pleasure ready 4-U. 24hrs. Stop play-
ing w/you be's and come play
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Beautiful yummy ass! 150 lbs. Black
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Rockhard globes of Butt! Hungry*

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Page Adam 24 Hours 207-8089

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MIKE, 30, 5'10" 200#, Blnd/Blu

Clean-cut Muscle Hunk

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Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs

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\$80/\$100 • JIM 267-1817

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Very Cute, 6', 165#, Blonde, 24yo

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Cute, Smooth, Hung, Friendly

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Sexy, friendly, muscled top. I'm 28

with a hard, defined gymnast's body,

broad shoulders, great chest, popping

biceps, handsome face, 8 hard sweet

inches offering hot, sensual, intimate

times with respect and no attitude.

\$120 Jeff 679-8487, VM/Pgr

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CUTE 24YR OLD

5'8", brown/brown, 140 lbs, smooth,

clean cut, call Chad at 241-9381

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Smooth, Lean, Muscular Body

Very Cute, Very Versatile.

Call Jason 24 hrs 541-5002

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PAGE JIMMY 709-2750

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A unique massage experience by tall
Texas charmer 6'6", 195", lean, toned
Attractive Attentive Affectionate.
60/In 80/Out w/table complete

WAYNE 252-7443

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SEXY&GORGEOUS

Very handsome&masculine dark hair
green eyes well equipped and know
how to use it!! Amazin' butt, versa-
tile & very friendly Pgr 207-6117

E51

Sensual Horny Affectionate

EAGER SEXY BLOND TOY

22yrs hung 8' and thick!

Versatile & fun Jeremy 210-0047

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HORSEHUNG STUD!

Tame this monster. Masculine guy
avail. for sizzling encounter. Athletic
built. XXX Thick beautiful Tool.
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10 INCHES 6

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Offbeat 42yo CMT, Playful, Masculine,

Versatile, hot voice, great hands,

furry bod, long hair, short beard

Nice guy. Let's get naked 764-3139

E52

KINK VIDEO STAR

Sexy, exquisite, exclusive gorgeous
6ft 150lbs olive complexion
Defined lean toned chest
8" thick uncut chiseled face

Classy, good conversationalist

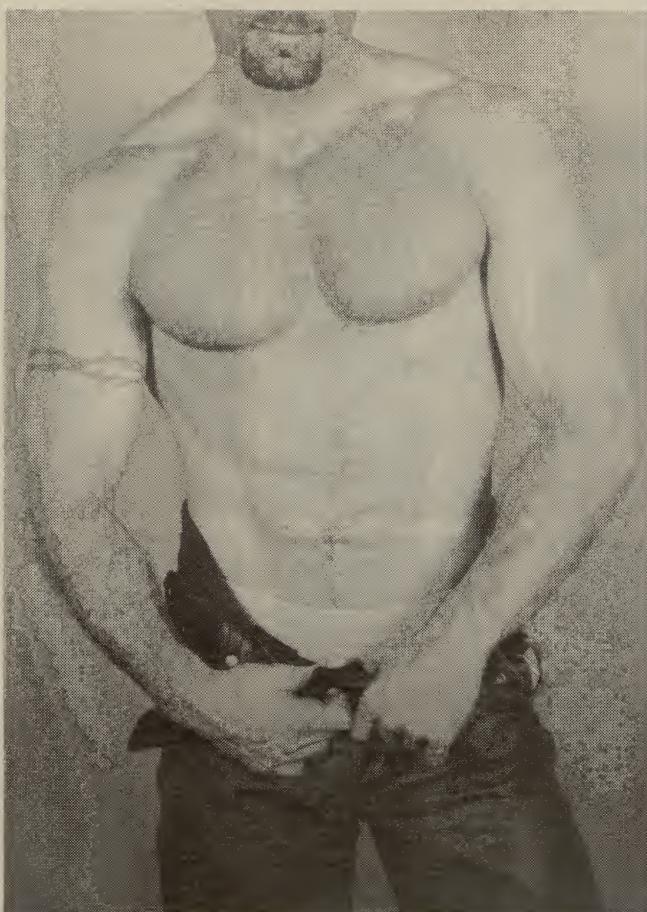
Dinner date, companion, beautiful

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